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PICTURE SPECIAL INSIDE

Lorne games bask in glory

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THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £4500

Bid to control Oban Bay

by Sandy Neil and
Kathie Griffiths

A plan by CMAL to control all of Oban Bay, including the North Channel, 'to improve safety' has been met with suspicion by mariners.

Currently Oban Bay, covering all waters inside of the Isle of Kerrera, has two Statutory Harbour Authorities (SHA), with two harbour masters from Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC) and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), which owns the west coast and Clyde ferries infrastructure.

CMAL plans to manage the entire bay, via a decision by the Oban Bay Management Group (OBMG), made up from A&BC, CMAL, its sister company CalMac, the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) and the chairperson of the Oban Bay Stakeholders' Group.

In an online questionnaire, which closes on July 31, the OBMG says Oban's Railway and South piers handle 13,000 large vessel movements per year, the North Pier 5,600, and the NLB Pier 500, alongside 20,000

small vessels. The OBMG has concluded 'a statutory harbour for the wider Oban Bay area is required to significantly reduce the current risks that have been identified and to enhance the commercial viability of Oban.'

It estimates CMAL presents the cheapest option in the first year at £268,000, compared to £278,000 for A&BC, and £966,000 for a trust port.

The questionnaire says: 'CMAL and the OBMG are committed to improving marine safety within Oban Bay and managing activities in a collaborative manner for the benefit of all users. It is proposed the OBMG would feed directly into the CMAL board to ensure local considerations continue to have a strong voice.'

However, mariners on the Oban Bay Stakeholders' Group questioned the accuracy of the figures, claiming CMAL 'had made up its mind in advance' and did not intend to listen.

According to one stakeholder, a March meeting was a 'fait accompli': 'We were treated to a monologue from CMAL on what was to happen, that A&BC had expressed no further

interest in the control of the bay.' Stakeholders, they said, were 'an irritant not to be taken seriously'.

Another said: 'Oban Bay belongs to the people of the town and those who use it, not a sole business. We have not been asked, we have been told.'

And another added: 'The perception, in the light of CMAL/CalMac's performance in other harbours, is it will be run for the benefit of CalMac, with the interests of other users being neglected.'

CalMac harbour master Paul Jennings said a decision had been made for CMAL to move on with the Harbour Revision Order. As demanded by the Scottish Government, CMAL has to carry out a consultation first. He said more than 550 local businesses would be invited to have a say, with two public meetings this year.

'There is nothing to hide. We want to encourage debate,' Mr Jennings said. 'If at a later stage someone wants to set up a trust port we will step back.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'Any consultation needs to be as wide as possible.'

A dream fulfilled...



On Sunday a magnificent memorial was unveiled on the summit of Beinn Ghlas to remember two love stories between Scotland and Ireland. Commissioned by Sam MacDonald of Barguilean Estate near Taynuilt, in memory of his Belfast-born wife Evelyn, the Sheiling is a place of beauty and peace. Full story, turn to page 4.

Argyll health and social care boss resigns

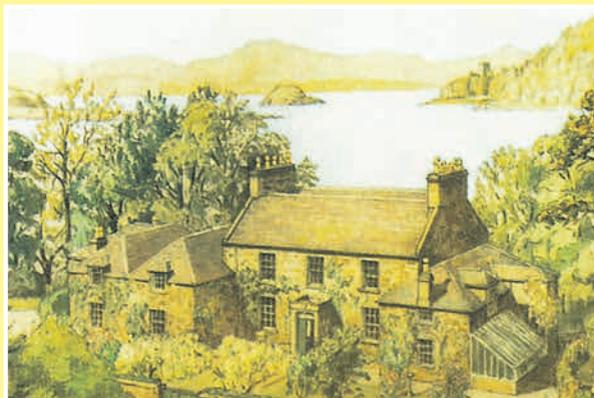
Argyll's top health and social care official has resigned.

Christina West's decision to step down follows a call earlier this year by Argyll MSP Michael Russell for 'genuine change at the top'.

On Tuesday, an Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'We can confirm that Christina West has resigned from her post of chief officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). She will be with us for another three months, during which time we will recruit for her replacement.'

In March, the chairman of the HSCP's governing body, the Integrated Joint Board, apologised for the anxiety caused to staff and patients following an 11th hour decision to reject a secret list of cuts. At the time, Mr Russell blamed senior leadership for 'a long line of blunders'.

The council spokesperson added: 'Integration of health and social care has been one of the most significant changes in the public sector for decades. Under Christina's leadership she leaves Argyll and Bute's HSCP in a positive position to move forward.'



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OT



Some of the young people who signed up on the night.

16_T26_YouthCafe01

Young Oban people give up time to volunteer

Young people in Oban will be giving up their spare time to volunteer this summer and will be rewarded with trips away.

The Give programme is a collaboration between Oban Youth Cafe and Argyll and Bute Council Youth Services.

Last week, a sign-up night was held at the youth cafe and dozens of teenagers agreed to volunteer.

They will be helping by spending time with the el-

derly at Lyside day centre, gardening, beach cleaning, painting and CPR and dementia awareness training.

For every two and a half days of volunteering, the youngsters will earn one free trip.

The trips include go karting, swimming, Go Country, Flip Out, Segway and tubing.

To get involved contact Maureen Evans on 01631 567975 or email maureen.evans@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Shortage of nurses at Oban hospital

by Sandy Neil

sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A national nursing shortage is causing 'increased costs' and 'a lack of continuity for patients' in Argyll and has left 15 per cent of posts unfilled at Oban's hospital.

Oban councillor Kieron Green, vice chairman of the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP)'s governing body, said: 'Unfortunately there are national shortages of those qualified for many roles within health and social care, including nursing.

'As a result here in Argyll we must depend on locum and agency nurses to keep some services running.

'This leads to increased costs as well as a lack of continuity for patients.

'On occasion this has meant

us having to limit admissions to our hospital wards - and for McKenzie Care it was a factor that led it to taking the decision to withdraw nursing beds from the Lynn of Lorne Care Home. Prior to this Crossreach also closed Auchinlee Care Home in Campbeltown for similar reasons.

'To sustain the range of services available here we must therefore attract more health and social care professionals to this area.

'Key to this will be ensuring there is sufficient quality housing available for them and their families. This is a particular issue in and around Oban, where the lack of affordable homes, combined with an extremely competitive job market, can make recruitment incredibly difficult.

'We are also working to

'grow our own' - providing more opportunities for people to gain skills and qualifications locally. Along with this there is the potential of further partnerships with local schools and Argyll College to encourage more young people to consider a career in health and social care.'

In the last financial year, NHS Scotland spent £175.7 million on nursing and midwifery bank and agency staff - an increase of £9.2 million (5.5 per cent) compared to 2016/17.

Currently Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital employs 96 trained nurses and there are 15 vacancies.

However, an NHS Highland spokesperson reassured: 'Over and above this, there are health care support staff, operating department practitioners, nursing students

and clinical assistants. And the figures do not include community nurses, midwives or health visitors.'

An HSCP spokesperson added: 'We are experiencing challenges in recruiting nursing staff for the Oban area and we have a number of recruitment initiatives in place to try and attract more nurses to the locality.'

'This includes promoting Argyll and Bute as an attractive place to live and work, making greater use of social media to promote our vacancies, working closely with universities to attract student nurses to come and work in Oban, which we hope will encourage them to remain when they qualify, and visiting universities to speak to new graduate nurses directly about the benefits of coming to work in Argyll and Bute.'



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Ceilidh House bought by new Oban firm

Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban has been sold.

The band said the business and extended lease have been bought by 'an exciting new Oban company'.

In a statement, the band said: 'It was not an easy decision to make but it definitely feels like the right one.'

'With things growing and getting busier with the band and with a few other things on the horizon, we have been weighing up our options for a while in the lead up to the lease renewal in September.

'We are lucky and very grateful for the surge in popularity the band has had in the last two years and we have a really busy summer schedule of gigs ahead - it's not easy juggling that with running the venue.

'Despite these difficulties though, we were reluctant to jeopardise the continuation of the business or the jobs of our staff so we had decided to soldier on with the juggling and renew the lease.

'However, a number of months ago we were approached by three young guys



from Oban, full of energy and enthusiasm, who were keen to take on the business if we would consider selling.

'They made us a firm, fair offer and after a complex legal journey, agreements have now been settled in conjunction with the landlords, and over the coming weeks ownership of the business - under a new name - will pass to this new company.'

The band went on to say that as part of the agreement staff will keep their jobs and all existing and on-going bookings will be maintained.

The ceilidh and DJ nights will continue and be added to, with the new operators adding plenty of their own

ideas as well as their new name to the venue.

The band continued: 'For more than 10 years the Skipinnish Ceilidh House has been a significant part of our lives and we are very grateful to everyone who has worked with us and helped us along the way. It has been the catalyst for meeting and working with some of the finest human beings we know and we are privileged to have been part of a great team running the venue.'

'We pass on huge thanks to all our staff, stewards, DJs, musicians, singers, dancers, customers and suppliers, past and present.

'A particular thanks to Claire MacDonald and Duncan Campbell who have been as solid as rocks since our very early days in the venue and have performed exceptionally to keep things running in our increasing absence.

'It is business as usual for at least the next month though, so we're not saying farewell quite yet! More news coming soon.'

Police files

Shoplifter charged

At 4.50pm on Wednesday June 20, a woman stole cosmetics from Superdrug, George Street, Oban.

Police traced the 21-year-old and she was arrested and charged with theft and issued with a recorded police warning.

Vehicles damaged

Sometime between 5pm on Monday June 18 and 2pm on Tuesday June 19, at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, the paint work on a silver Vauxhall Astra car was scratched. The wheel valve caps were also stolen.

The paintwork of a black Ford C Max was also damaged sometime between 3.30pm and 9pm on Thursday June 21, in Mossfield Avenue, Oban.

In a third similar incident, sometime between 6pm on Saturday June 23 and 8.30am on Sunday June 24, the paint work of a blue Volkswagen Polo in Mossfield Avenue, Oban, was scratched.

Shop theft

Police are appealing for witnesses following reports a man stole alcohol from McCaig's Warehouse, Station Square, Oban, at 1.25pm on Thursday June 21.

Car seized

At 10.20pm on Friday June 22, a car was stopped by police on the A85 near Tyndrum. Checks revealed the driver, a 25-year-old man had no driving licence or insurance.

The man was charged, the vehicle was seized and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

No insurance

A car was stopped by police on the A85 near Dunbeg, Oban, at 10.25pm on Saturday June 23. Checks revealed the driver, a 19-year-old man, had no insurance and the tread on one of the tyres was below the minimum depth.

The man was charged, the vehicle was seized and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Handle stolen

Sometime between 9.30pm on Saturday June 23 and 11am on Sunday June 24, in Queens Park Place, Oban, the passenger side front door handle of a Volkswagen Caddy car was pulled off and stolen.

Anyone with information in relation to the above, or to any incident, should contact their local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



Rotary Am-Am Convener Dave Mudie hands over the cheque to Bob Clark and Laura Pagan.

Donation boosts respite care

The Rotary Club of Oban recently gifted £1,000 to Oban Charitable Trust to help run its holiday flat at 3 Grahame Court, Corran Brae, Oban.

Rotary Am-Am Convener Dave Mudie handed over the cheque to Bob Clark and Laura Pagan, trustees of Oban Charitable Trust, this week.

The flat, which is maintained by volunteers, is available as

respite accommodation for cancer sufferers and/or their carers.

The flat is fully furnished and consists of one bedroom, living room and bathroom with modern conveniences.

The flat is a huge benefit to Oban and the surrounding area.

Contact Laura Pagan on 07572 464869 for more information.

It's all kicking off at sealife centre

Seals at the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary will go head to head in their own football match this Saturday.

Lora, Macey, Pippa and Boo will be taking to the 'pitch' at noon for their own match with guests cheering on their favourite flippered footballer.

The centre decided to give the animals their own 'World Cup worthy' game after the four resident seals showed a keen interest in football.

Anna Price at The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, based at Barcaldine, said: 'The seals just love football. Not only does it keep their brains active, but they get very competitive. They love to chase the ball and even tackle each other to get possession. Lora is definitely our best shot but Pippa can be crafty and likes stealing the ball from the others. It's great fun to watch and Boo even has his own celebratory goal dance. We can't wait to share the experience with visitors.'

Playing with a ball is a key part of the seal's daily activities. It allows them to practise their natural chasing behaviour. Visit www.visitscalife.com/oban to book a ticket.

Owner should have ensured stricken boat was seaworthy

The owner of a boat that sank in 2013 should have ensured it was seaworthy, the procurator fiscal told a fatal accident inquiry at Oban Sheriff Court.

During the final day of proceedings into the death of Scott MacAlister, aged 40, of Luing, the crown highlighted four precautions that could have prevented the death.

Mr MacAlister was the skipper of the Speedwell, a boat owned by John Connell, which went down on April 25 2013, near Easdale.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy told Oban Sheriff Court: 'The owner and master of the fishing vessel should have ensured the vessel was in a seaworthy condition.'

'A reasonable precaution would have been to do all that is necessary to ensure it was water tight.'

Mr Glancy's second precaution was 'the owner of the Speedwell ensuring there

were life jackets on board the vessel'. 'On the balance of probability, it is my submission that on April 25 there were no life jackets on board the fishing vessel Speedwell.'

Another precaution was if the deceased was wearing such a life jacket or personal floatation device.

'Having regard to the evidence,' Mr Glancy added. 'The wearing of a life jacket would have been a reasonable precaution whereby Mr MacAlister's death might have been avoided.'

Mr Glancy's final submission was 'the accused requesting assistance at a time earlier than when the mayday call was made'.

Mr Glancy said Mr MacAlister's death might have been avoided if he transmitted a distress call when he phoned his partner at 12.50pm. Mr Glancy brought the free surfacing effect to the attention of the court and

asked that consideration was made to the dangerous effects of free surface water moving within a vessel.

Michael Thompson, John Connell's solicitor, said: 'The court must try and establish precisely when and in what circumstances this vessel became un-seaworthy because it's John Connell's position that he was not aware. Let's imagine there were no life jackets, if Scott knew that, regrettably he has to bear the

responsibility for not raising that.' The MacAlister family's solicitor Lewis Kennedy said: 'Scott MacAlister had been under pressure from John Connell to take the Speedwell out to sea at that time. John Connell had the annual obligation to self certify safety equipment. Mr MacAlister was reasonably entitled to rely on the Speedwell.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said he would compile his report 'as quickly as possible'.

Con woman jailed after tricking Oban cashier

A con woman has been jailed after tricking an Oban cashier to hand over £160.

Alina Rostas of 86 Warren Drive, South Surbiton, London, pleaded guilty to theft when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday June 20.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'A shopkeeper was working and there was a sign in front of him saying new cashier, please be patient.'

'[Rostas] approached him, taking a bundle of £10 notes from her purse and asked the person to change them into £20 notes. He picked up enough £20 notes, and at that point Rostas changed her mind and asked for £50 notes instead.'

'He explained he did not have enough 50s and offered to change the 20s into 10s.'

'He counted out £160 worth of £10 notes and put the 20s back in the till without counting them.'

When it was time to cash up, it revealed there was a deficit of £160.

Mr McGinty added: 'With computers being up to date, it explained the time of the deficit.'

'The CCTV showed Rostas interacting with the person behind the till.'

'It would appear this is a confidence trick and there was slight of hand involved.'

Sheriff John Herald sentenced Rostas to 30 days' imprisonment.

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OT

'A shelter dropped by the gods 1,000 years ago'

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A magnificent memorial was unveiled on the summit of Beinn Ghlas at the weekend to remember two love stories between Scotland and Ireland.

The Sheiling was commissioned by Sam MacDonald of Barguilean Estate near Taynuilt in memory of his Belfast-born wife Evelyn, who died from cancer last year.

'We came up here with friends and relatives and Evelyn always chose this place for picnics,' said Sam. 'This is our dream being fulfilled. She would have loved it.'

Its sculptor David Wilson described it as: 'A sheiling looking like it had been dropped down on the mountains by the gods 1,000 years ago.'

Dozens made the 1,500ft



The two standing stones, one leaning in to the other, represent intimacy.

journey up the 2km gravel track, by foot or by bus, to the mountain shelter, among the 14-turbine Beinn Ghlas wind farm Sam and Evelyn commissioned in 1999 – the first in the West Highlands.

One visitor in the glorious sunshine, Sam's lifelong friend John Joe Costin, a past

president of the National Museum of Ireland, said: 'This place silences you. You get lost for words.'

One of the opening event's organisers Marlyn Turbitt, added: 'It is so much better than I dared to hope.'

There was a private unveiling on Saturday, with speech-

es from the Consul General of Ireland Mark Hanniffy and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, and a message from President of Ireland Michael D Higgins, who told The Sheiling's second, older love story of Deirdre and Naoise.

President Higgins explained: 'The tragic tale of the two doomed lovers is one of the great tales of an Rúraíocht, the Ulster Cycle, a mythic arc that is the shared inheritance of the peoples of Scotland and Ireland. There is perhaps no place on our islands more representative of that shared inheritance than Argyll, once the home of the ancient Gaelic Kingdom of Dál Riada. It was there that Cú Chulainn, the warrior-hero of the Ulaid, was said to have learned the arts of war, and it was there that Deirdre sought sanctuary with Naoise and his brothers Arden and Ainle.

'I am so pleased that a magnificent memorial will now rest forever on Beinn Glas, not far from Gleann Éite, the place Deirdre and Naoise were said to have found a moment of peace.'

Mr Russell reflected: 'Deirdre's story is told, in its earliest form, in the Glen Massan Manuscript. The poems in the document, fictional as they may appear to us, are all rooted in actual places. And that is particularly true of Deirdre's farewell to Scotland, the poem which is most valued in this collection. That poem which speaks so movingly of the love of an Irishwoman for the country in which she lived so happily – Scotland – is a poem with real, physical, roots.

'Places do remember events. And the events of Deirdre and Naoise, and of Sam and Evelyn, are remembered in this place today – and forever.'

Oban man placed on sex offenders' register

A 19-year-old Oban man has been placed on the sex offenders' register for sending sexually explicit messages to an underage teenager.

Aaron MacLeod, of 4 Hyskier Gardens, pleaded guilty when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on June 19. Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'Some of the messages appeared cryptic. He explained that he meant he wanted her to send explicit photographs.'

Sheriff John Herald said: 'You are a first offender and this is a serious offence. Your sentence will be deferred for reports.'

MacLeod's sentence was deferred for the court to obtain social work reports and a restriction of liberty order assessment. He will find out how long he will be on the sex offenders' register at his next hearing.

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Council moves to quash concerns over graveyard plots on Mull

Argyll and Bute Council has issued a statement in a bid to quash concerns over the number of graveyard plots on Mull.

The council says there are more than 600 lairs available across various cemeteries on the island.

Last week, concerns had been raised over a lack of graves.

Billy McClymont, chairman of Mull Community Council and owner of Mull Funeral Services, said: 'This is nothing new to the council. Tobermory is down to nine graves.'

Mr McClymont explained there were lairs available in other parts of Mull but 'it's like saying to someone in Oban that Pennyfuir is full, but there's space in Lochgilphead'.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'There is no need for concern.'

'There are more than 600 lairs available across the various cemeteries on the island of Mull.

'At Beadoun in Tobermory, we have capacity for the next two years and are already investigating ways to expand that site.'



Part of the walled garden at Green Shoots, Glencruitten.

Green Shoots to host garden open day

Green Shoots at Glencruitten's walled garden is having an open day this Saturday from 11am to 3pm.

Things to do will include making hanging baskets, bird boxes and bottle top art. There will also be refreshments and home-baking.

Entry to the community garden is free but donations for the activities will be welcome. Everyone is welcome but all dogs must be kept on a lead.

The garden is also open every Wednesday from 10.30am to 3.30pm until the end of July.

Ladies invited to New Hope event

An open event for women to get together for friendship and easy crafting will take place on Saturday July 7 at New Hope, Soroba Road, Oban.

Go and enjoy fun, fellowship and praise between 11am and 2pm. The event is free and there will also be a bring and share lunch. For more information call Beryl on: 07761 127217 or email dougcarmichael@talktalk.net or wendywhyte636@hotmail.com

Volunteers answer RNLi's mayday call



Murron Swain-Nisbet to the rescue.



Seafari offered trips around the bay.

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Many responded to Oban lifeboat's 'mayday' call for more fundraising volunteers at its open day on Saturday, a day after it was called out to a fire aboard a boat in Loch Linnhe.

Luckily Saturday was quiet for the RNLB Mora Edith MacDonald, when a few of its 27 volunteer crew showed visitors around the Trent class vessel, able to reach 25 knots, and powerful enough to take on heavy seas, tow big boats and carry lots of survivors. On an even faster rib, Seafari offered trips around the bay.

Visitors were also treated to a flypast by the Coastguard Rescue helicopter from Prestwick and the volunteers of Oban's Coastguard Rescue Team and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

showed off their emergency vehicles. Station chairman Mike Robertson said: 'I am absolutely delighted with the outcome of the open day. Our 'mayday' call for fundraising volunteers brought new members while the station team and many other stalwart helpers turned out to help on the day.

'I feel the team building exercise is almost as important as the fundraising itself, which brought in an amazing £2,400. Special thanks go to Seafari for bringing its boat up from Easdale on an otherwise busy day and giving thrilling rides. Many thanks also to all the local businesses which gave generous prizes which made the fundraising possible. The annual event helped raise invaluable funds for the RNLi, which will continue to help equip and train volunteer crew members to help save lives at sea.'



Max and Gus Laing take the steering wheel on the Oban lifeboat. What could possibly go wrong?



The coastguard's next generation: Harris Flanagan, age 1.

Green light for Shuna fish farms

A plan to expand two fish farms near Shuna has been approved by Argyll and Bute Council.

Marine Harvest plans to merge five local sites into four, closing its Ardmaddy Fish Farm, while only reducing their combined capacity from 9,600 tonnes of biomass to 9,500 tonnes.

In one application, Marine Harvest sought to modify 16 100m cages into 12 120m cages, and increase biomass to 2,500 tonnes, at Poll Na Gille Salmon Farm, east of Shuna Island.

It drew 19 objections, plus an objection from Argyll and District Salmon Fishery Board, and six letters of support. According to the planning officer's report presented to councillors at last Thursday's planning committee, supporters argued: 'The company is dedicated to local employment, the training of employees, the use of local contractors where possible and the desire to integrate into the local environs economically and socially.'

The campaign group The Friends of Sound of Jura objected: 'There is a strong correlation between fish farming and the sharp decline in wild salmon and sea trout populations on the west

coast. Wild fish sampled close to fish farms have a higher lice burden than those at a greater distance.

'Insufficient experience has been obtained of new mitigation measures being employed by fish farmers to be sure these will be effective.

'Additional biomass in an area known to be frequented by wild salmonids and close to two breeding rivers is likely to pose significant risk. If it cannot be concluded the risk is insignificant then the precautionary principle should be adopted and permission should be refused, or at the very least be postponed until the current parliamentary inquiry reports.'

Marine biologist David Ainsley also raised concerns about the risk posed to cetaceans by Acoustic Deterrent Devices at the site, which he said 'cause disturbance and displacement of cetaceans'.

However, councillors agreed with the planning officers' recommendation to approve Marine Harvest's plan: 'Although [measures] will not eradicate impacts upon wild fish, they will mitigate impacts to a point which in the officers' view, and that of most consultees, renders the application acceptable.' Its impact, the report said, is

'unlikely to be significant'.

In the second application, Marine Harvest planned to raise production at its Bagh Dail Nan Ceann Fish Farm, at Loch Shuna, Ardfern, by expanding it from 10 to 12 120m circumference cages, and increasing its capacity to 3,500 tonnes.

Twenty-four objections, plus an objection from Craignish Community Council and Argyll and District Salmon Fishery Board, were lodged alongside seven letters of support.

Craignish community councillors objected 'to the creeping incremental increase in capacity posed by this application and the associated application (outwith the area but in the same water body) at Pol na Gille'.

Given a lack of understanding about the environmental impacts of salmon farming, they argued, 'there should be a moratorium on any expansion until further research has been concluded'.

The report also summarised the views of supporters, who argued: 'The development of the site will support local jobs.'

Councillors again agreed with the officers' recommendation, approving the expanded fish farm.

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Dangerous driver banned

A 24-year-old man has been disqualified from driving for a year and fined £800 for driving dangerously near Loch Awe.

Bogdan Paduraru, of 18 Alder Crescent, East Kilbride, pleaded guilty to the charge and to driving without a licence and insurance when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday June 20.

The incident took place on January 30 this year.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'The [witness] noted the car was damaged and went to overtake and noticed the window was smashed, airbags were deployed and it was swerving all over the road. [They] followed the vehicle for 10 minutes, during which the driving got steadily worse. [They] were concerned that someone would end up dying.'

Paduraru was fined £500 for dangerous driving, £150 for driving without insurance and £150 for driving without a licence.

Call for statue to mark pet monkey's demise

by David McPhee
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk

Eight years ago, 'stunned' Oban residents witnessed a monkey being knocked down on William Street.

This week, a man has written to The Oban Times suggesting a bronze statue be erected to commemorate the pet.

Godfrey Binks said: 'With new hotels, new high street stores, a new marina and Oban Live, it's apparent tourism will continue unhindered for many years to come.'

'However, I'd like to suggest we make tourists realise Oban is so much more than a picturesque wee town that they stop at on their way to somewhere else. I'd like them to realise there is real history to our town.'

'After a recent trip to



Godfrey's suggestion of how the statue might look.

Edinburgh, and an encounter with one of the best known bronze figures in our country, it occurred to me there are very few things around here that commemorate events in the town's history.

'Eight years ago there was

an incident involving a furry friend in Oban and I think it might deserve some sort of bronze memorial.

'I am talking about 'The Mystery Monkey.'

In 2010, The Oban Times reported: 'Stunned Oban

'I am not imagining some sort of monstrosity, just a short, tasteful plinth with a likeness of the monkey on top. Maybe the town could have a vote on the name?'

residents watched in horror as a monkey was run over by a passing vehicle on the town's William Street.

'Only moments before the accident, the cheeky mystery visitor had been giving police officers, traffic wardens, veterinary nurses, motorists, shop owners and tourists the

run around for more than an hour on the busy road and side streets.'

It was believed the owner was travelling around the area in a camper van before the monkey escaped.

Mr Binks added: 'I am not imagining some sort of looming monstrosity, just a short, tasteful plinth with a likeness of the monkey on top.'

'Maybe the town could have a vote on the name? We could encourage suggestions to be submitted to The Oban Times. I will start the ball rolling with 'Marmy', because it was a Marmoset.'

'I have attached a sketch of what I'm imagining. In no way am I suggesting the statue be modelled on my sketch.'

'It would be short in height and have a brief description of the incident somewhere that might serve as a talking point.'

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Oban Rotary President Tommy McQuade and past president Ken Oxland with the students prior to the lunch at the Perle Hotel.

Rotary Club hosts lunch for American exchange students

Oban High School students and their counterparts from Laurinburg, North Carolina, USA, were recently guests of honour at a Rotary Club of Oban lunch in the town's Perle Hotel.

Now in its 26th year, the Laurinburg Exchange involves visiting students being housed by Oban High School pupils, giving them the chance to experience

life with a Scottish family, including local food and culture. The Rotary Club of Oban, in addition to hosting the lunch, has supported the exchange financially since its inception and the visiting Americans all testified to the friendliness of the local people and the magnificent scenery.

The Oban pupils will visit Laurinburg later this year.

Man guilty of threatening behaviour

An Oban man has been found guilty of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner.

Colin Baxter was found guilty of shouting, swearing and uttering abusive threats on October 2 2017.

He was fined £300 for his behaviour and ordered to pay an additional £150 in compensation.

Baxter pleaded not guilty to the charge, but after hearing evidence from three witnesses, Sheriff John Herald found the 44-year-old guilty.

Get set for Oban raft race

Oban and Lorn Lions Club is urging entrants to this year's raft race to complete their application forms.

The annual fundraiser will take place on Saturday August 11 and application forms can be collected from Hannah's Newsagents or Mathesons or email aspoan@sky.com.

Jim Edge of the lions club said: "This is our main fundraiser of the year. It enables us to help people in the area."

Jim explained the more money the event raised, the more good the club could do.

The race is sponsored by the George Street Fish and Chip Shop.

Green light for hotel holiday homes plan

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A plan by the Taychreggan Hotel near Kilchrenan to build self-catering holiday homes has been approved as 'an exceptional case' in the face of local objection.

The Loch Awe-side hotel's first application sought permission to build 13 units, attracting 11 objections and seven letters of support, according to a report presented to Argyll and Bute councillors

on the planning committee at Kilmory Castle last Thursday.

Supporters argued: "The business is struggling financially and the securing of planning permission for the proposed units would cement the future of the hotel which currently employs seven people from within a 10-mile radius of the hotel and a further four/five staff who live on site at the hotel."

Objectors feared a major increase in density and traffic, a visual impact from Portsonochan on the oppo-

site side of Loch Awe and an 'over-development of an unspoilt landscape'.

One argued: "This is not an application for holiday accommodation units but an application for housing development."

However, the planning officer replied in the report: "A planning condition will ensure the proposed units shall be used for short term holiday occupancy only."

Officers recommended the application for approval.

"The development plan

would ordinarily only encourage 'small scale' development," the report concluded: "In exceptional cases development in the open countryside of up to and including large scale developments may be supported where there has been demonstrated an exceptional case. The economic benefit afforded by the proposed development would represent an appropriate 'exceptional case'."

The Taychreggan Hotel submitted a second application for a further four log cabins.

It drew 10 objections and four expressions of support. This time the planning officers recommended the plan be refused.

Councillors concluded: "Whilst the development is small scale and would be constructed using materials which are sympathetic to the locality, its introduction into an undeveloped ancient woodland would be materially harmful to its unspoiled character which forms a vital part of the landscape setting of the Taychreggan Hotel."



Oban's McCaig Tower was lit up in blue for Global MND Awareness Day.



Chairman of MND Scotland Lawrence Cowan, Jim Grant and Doddie Weir.

Doddie's £100k to help MND sufferers holiday in Oban

Oban's McCaig's Tower was lit up in blue on Thursday June 21 for Global MND Awareness Day and MND Scotland, a charity supporting people affected by Motor Neurone Disease.

Following his diagnosis a year ago, former Scotland rugby player Doddie Weir started the My Name's Doddie Foundation to fund research into the terminal disease and donated £100,000 to MND Scotland's grants scheme during its awareness week. The charity runs a fully adapted holiday chalet in Tralee Bay near Oban.

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is a rapidly progressing terminal illness, which stops signals from

the brain reaching the muscles. This may cause someone to lose the ability to walk, talk, eat, drink or breathe unaided. There is currently no cure or effective treatment for MND and the average life expectancy from diagnosis is just 20 months.

Doddie said: "The generosity and support we have received since we launched the My Name's Doddie Foundation has been incredible."

MND Scotland offers three different grants to people affected by the illness in Scotland. The grants can be used in various ways such as paying for equipment or adaptations to someone's home; for power of attorney fees;

taxi to appointments or to allow a family to have their last holiday together.

Jim Grant, 75, from Edinburgh, who was diagnosed with MND in January 2000, has received grants from MND Scotland. He said: "I used MND Scotland's grants towards the cost of the ramp built outside my home. Without it I would be house-bound."

"I have also used the charity's grants for breaks away. Sometimes I go to Leuchie House with the grants, where I can receive 24-hour care. This means Janet can take a break from caring for me full-time and get a holiday of her own, which is very important."

Fine and points for driver clocked at 100mph

A 61-year-old man has pleaded guilty to driving at 100mph near the Bridge of Orchy Hotel.

Colin Whitelaw, of 40 Sherbrooke Avenue, Glasgow, pleaded guilty to speeding when

he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday June 20.

The incident occurred on August 13 2017.

Whitelaw was fined £750 and had his licence endorsed with

five penalty points. Whitelaw's defence solicitor said this was out of character for him.

He said: "He tells me he had been running late. He foolishly sped up to make up time."

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THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS ANNUAL CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms will be posted to **every residential property in Argyll & Bute during the month of July**, listing the registration details currently held by the Electoral Registration Officer. **It is important that you respond to these forms, whether there are changes to be made or not.**

Residents will be able to respond by using **INTERNET, FREEPHONE and MOBILE PHONE TEXT MESSAGE** to confirm or update their electoral roll details.

Details of how to do this will be on the Registration Forms.

These services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the canvass period.

Alternatively the forms can be returned by POST in the pre-paid envelope provided.

Electoral Registration for Young People
Along with all adults in the household, you should also add to the form those who will be aged 15 years or older by 30 November 2018.

This is so that they are included in the register when they become old enough to vote.

It's important to provide the information requested; if you don't you could be fined £1,000.

David C Thomson
Electoral Registration Officer

OT

Sunshine and lollipops

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

It was lollipop weather at this year's Lochnell Primary School sports day on Monday (June 25).

Children enjoyed the ice-cold refreshments following the heat of competition.

Running races, netball, the beloved egg-and-spoon race and three-legged race, bean bag throwing, and clan activities all featured on the day.

A highlight of this year's sports day was the warm family feel that all the children shared, a member of staff said.

The Benderloch primary's headteacher, Shirley Matheson, said: 'Everyone enjoyed a good time. A special thanks to the P7 children who helped run the event. The weather and spectators made it even better.'

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at Lochnell



Clockwise from far right: No sports day is complete without a three-legged race; Everyone enjoyed this year's Lochnell primary sports day; pure concentration helped this youngster get the bean bag into the hoops; you need to focus to carry off the egg and spoon race well; a cool drink of water keeps everyone hydrated; the relay race looks a lot of fun; an ice lolly is the perfect way to cool down on a hot sports day; youngsters competed to see how many baskets they could score in a set time, which added to their points total; and they're off...

All photographs: Kevin McGlynn



Gary Innes plays Easdale

Highland born accordionist Gary Innes, presenter of BBC Radio Scotland's Take the Floor, takes the floor himself playing in Easdale Island Community Hall on Saturday July 7, fresh from the Stonehaven Folk Festival.

Innes will perform with his own ERA band, featuring the vocals of BBC Radio 2 award-winning singer Siobhan Miller. The ERA band also consists of multi-award-winning musicians Ewen Henderson on fiddle, Steve Byrnes on guitar and Hamish Napier on keyboard.

Born in Spean Bridge, Lochaber, Gary is a founding member of award-winning super-group Mànran, and has been performing and composing music for more than 16 years. He released his first solo album in 2005 and his second solo album ERA was launched at Celtic



Garry Innes will perform with his own ERA band.

Connections 2017 to great critical acclaim, with Tim Carroll writing: 'ERA is more than one man's reflection, it's a view into the world of a master at work'.

The concert on Easdale starts at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.garyinnes.com to guarantee entry.

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OT

Loch Awe hotel's burgers put midges on the menu

A hotel near Loch Awe could soon be selling a burger coated in midges after joking about it online, writes David McPhee.

David Keat, owner of the Brander Lodge Hotel, revealed his plan on social media after collecting millions of the 'little beggars'.

He said: 'Every summer we're absolutely overrun and this season they're as menacing as ever. We've installed several midge machines here on site and every few days we have to empty them, which got me thinking: all sorts of other insects and bugs are crawling onto menus all over the world, so there's no reason why the humble midge should be excluded.'

'If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em.' Speaking to The Oban Times, David said: 'It all started as a gimmick, now it's grown arms and legs.'

He has since created the unique burger and sent it to Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health department to be tested.

The idea originated from the Brander's vegan burger, incorporating sweet potato,

local nettles, herbs, and other vegetation picked from the hotel's garden.

Basically David wanted to take the midges habitat and camouflage away: 'The male midges eat greens, while the females eat blood,' he said. 'The males don't bite people.'

His vegan burger is called the Brander Awe Mighty Midge Fodder Burger, and 'protein-filled midges themselves are the carnivore optional extra'.

However, David said: 'At the moment it's just a joke, but if they are consumable and someone really wants one, we would make it for them.'

'We just need to get it tested. [environmental health] don't have any objection, they just wanted to make sure it is free of contamination.'

After eating a mouthful of midges, the owner added: 'They don't have much of a taste.'

Since he started collecting midges, which he freezes in empty mayonnaise tubs, David said: 'It's getting more and more tolerable - there were millions of them before.'

One girl and her dog

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A girl from Oban and her collie trounced all the adults at a dog agility show this month, winning five first prizes in only her second ever competition.

Rachel Carre, a 12-year-old pupil at Lochnell Primary School, in Benderloch, who is just about to move up to Oban High School, emerged victorious with her three-year-old Border collie Gem, at the Prestwick Show at Rozelle Park in Ayr.

Rachel, whose parents are both Oban vets, said: 'I felt amazing, something I had never felt before and I was so proud of myself and my dog Gem.'

Her mum, Alison, said: 'We are all very proud of Rachel and Gem. It was lovely to see her hard work and commitment pay off. They had gone to the competition for experience and to help Gem get used to the environment, not expecting to do so well.'

'It was Rachel's birthday,



Rachel and Gem in action - they train every week at Jessica's Pawsitive Dog Training.

Their 'very supportive and enthusiastic trainer', Jessica Campbell, said: 'They have trained with me at Jessica's Pawsitive Dog Training for the past two years and I am very proud of their achievements.'

'There were 1,000 dogs. It is a very busy environment for a child to go into. I knew she had the ability, but it is just keeping the nerves under control. She was as cool as a cucumber.'

'Gem is a very talented little dog. She listens to Rachel. She is very focused on the job. Your dog has to learn to ignore all the exciting things going on. When she is finished she gets her ball. That is her prize, then she will chill out.'

'They have high hopes for the future and Rachel hopes to qualify for Crufts one day with Gem.'

so probably the best present. Rachel loves dogs and sport, so this is the perfect activity for her. She works really hard, is very focused and has a great attitude to competitive sport. If things go wrong it makes her twice as determined to do better next time. Rachel is

also an active swimmer with Oban Otters, competes in triathlon whenever she can, plus Gem and Rachel can regularly be found at the Park Run on a Saturday morning. Rachel is very keen to continue their success and has high hopes for the future.'

Rachel was delighted after winning five first prizes with her dog Gem at Prestwick Show.



Schools' out for summer...

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



The school holidays are upon us once again and I really hope the good weather continues to let everyone make the most of the time off.

It's so much easier to amuse children if the weather is at least dry; you can get out and about and run off some of their boundless energy.

We're lucky enough to have some great beaches on our doorstep at Ganavan and Tralee, Benderloch, and you can while away a whole day quite happily with a bucket and spade and a picnic.

There are lots of other things, too, to get you out and about for a day.

Kerrera is a fantastic place to get away from it all, and I still enjoy a trip on the big

ferry to Mull and a visit to the play park in Craignure.

The wee trips to Seal Island are great and I've noticed on Facebook that the pups have started arriving, so cute if you get a chance to spot them.

Dunollie and Atlantis always have lots to keep everyone entertained, as does Oban Phoenix Cinema - for the days you need a wee seat after all the running around.

If you want to add some education into the fun then Oban Walking Tours are free for children under 16, but they must have an adult with them, or how about a visit to the Ocean Explorer Centre at Dunbeg to learn more about the oceans that surround us, and the Sealife Centre at Barcaldine to learn about the creatures in the ocean.

WHERE IS THIS?



There are lots of things to do around us and hopefully we will get the weather to enjoy them - after last year I think we're due some sunshine.

Don't forget to have a look at Oban Town Diary to keep up with everything that's happening.

Last week's photo was the top of the building at Eeusk, I think people found that quite hard so this week I've chosen something really easy but I think beautiful.

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Atlantic rower tells of drama as huge waves swamped boat

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



An Atlantic rower from Lewis rescued by a Dutch cargo ship after his boat Alba was swamped by waves 700 miles from New York is hoping to return home in days, after an appeal to the Canadian Prime Minister to let him disembark without a visa.

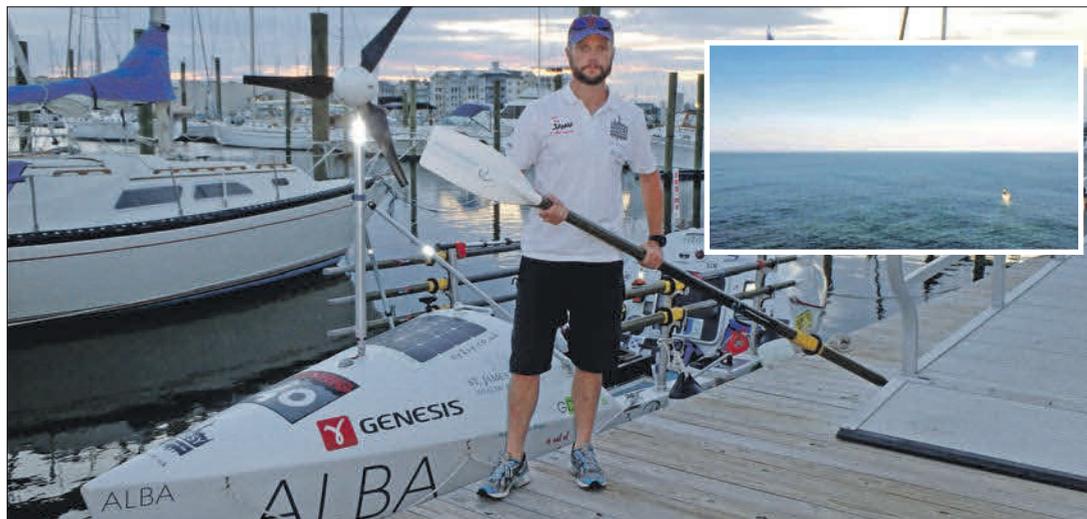
Niall Iain Macdonald, a 44-year-old Gaelic broadcaster who lives on Lewis, was making his third attempt in four years to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean, and set off from Norfolk, Virginia, on May 23, hoping to reach Stornoway in three to four months – and raise £100,000 for the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH).

'Big sea today, too much for me,' he said on Thursday June 14. 'Back on sea anchor.'

But at around midnight, over a quarter of the 3,400-mile journey home, a wave violently knocked the Alba on her side, before righting itself.

'I was sitting up trying to find a snack from my ration pack when it hit,' Niall said. 'The impact of the wave threw me into my control panel and sent everything flying around in the cabin.'

The wind generator had been badly damaged, and he put on his lifejacket and harness to go outside to check. A 'golden rule of ocean rowing', he



Niall Iain Macdonald with his boat Alba before setting off and, inset, out in the vast Atlantic.

explained, 'is to always keep your hatches closed, as it just takes one wave to cause problems for you. I waited and waited for the right opportunity and then went for it.'

'As I opened the hatch door the boat pitched and water from the flooded footwell started to come into the cabin over the bottom lip of the hatch, catching me unawares in that moment. And that's all it took, that short pause and then BANG!, the wave hit.'

'I got thrown to the rear of my cabin and water seemed to pour in from everywhere. By the time I got myself sorted and back to the hatch

door it was too late, my cabin had been swamped.'

He pulled the damaged door shut by its now only working clasp. 'Then a few minutes later the boat got knocked down for a third time. This sent water washing all over the cabin and into my control panel.'

'The decision to trigger my EPIRB wasn't instant but I knew it was inevitable. My boat was now wallowing in the water at the stern and some of my systems began to fail. I had also lost my wind generator and possibly suffered a breach to my forward hull.'

'I felt a mix of emotions as I saw the strobe light on the EPIRB

begin to flash, confirming a distress signal was now being transmitted ... relief, disbelief, anger, guilt, sadness, regret.'

He broadcast a mayday call using his VHF radio, only later realising the wave had broken the aerial. 'I took the decision to remain with my boat and not get into the liferaft immediately as I felt my boat was more likely to hold its position on the sea anchor whereas the liferaft would likely get caught in the wind and drift rapidly.'

Eventually he could see the lights of the Dolfjngracht, the first vessel to reach him, in the swell. Niall Iain

took one last look at his possessions, abandoned his rowing boat, and stepped into the liferaft – the 'last resort' – and began paddling 600m towards the ship. 'I lost sight of her several times as I slid into the troughs and then suddenly she was just there above me.'

'I thought my liferaft was going to get crushed under her. I was shouting, screaming and paddling, just desperately trying to get away from it. Finally, a wave caught me and took the liferaft clear, just a short distance but enough for one of the crew to throw a line down to me from the deck.'

'For a moment, the side of the ship seemed impregnable until suddenly a rope ladder appeared, clattering against the steel hull.' It was a 10m climb. 'I will never be able to thank Captain Goorden and his crew enough for what they did,' he said.

But when the vessel arrived in Quebec on Tuesday last week, Niall Iain couldn't disembark without a visa.

He appealed to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to help him get home. 'Can you help facilitate me getting off MV Dolfjngracht?' he asked. 'Desperately just want to get home to Scotland.'

On Thursday Niall Iain tweeted he may be able to organise charter boat in next couple of days.

'I tried my very best. I just so wish it could have been enough,' he said.

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OT

Lorne games bask in sunshine and glory

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



More than 1,500 people gathered for Oban's successful fifth Lorne Highland Games on sunny Saturday, bringing in big ticket sales – but ageing organisers 'desperately' need younger volunteers to hold a sixth next year.

An estimated 150 competitors amassed at Mossfield Park to test their skills and vie for £5,000 of prizes in the heavy events, such as throwing the sledgehammer, 26lb stone, caber, or a four-stone weight over a bar, and in the track and hill events such as jumping and racing 90m to 1,600m.

Highland dancers flocked from as far as Campbeltown for the pas-de-basque, sean truibhas (Gaelic for 'old trousers', pronounced 'shawn trewes'), hullachan, flora, lilt, and the fling, once danced by clansmen on a studded, deer-skin targe to celebrate victory in battle – carefully avoiding the six inch spike in the middle by nimble footwork.

Highland dancing official Claire Purdie said entries had doubled from last year in the children's competitions, but there were only two dancers in the adult section.

She explained: 'They have got too many competitions. This is too small for them. These games are great for the early competitions.'

Judge Rebecca Fairbairn, a former professional dancer, praised 'good quality' performances, and was delighted to see so many new dancers.



Chieftain David 'Jocky' Martin and committee member Linda Robb lead Mull and Iona Pipe Band into Mossfield Park. Right, Ollie Maitland's focus was on winning the sweets at the end of the potato and spoon race.

The sword dance was once performed by warriors the night before battle: if the dancer touched the sword, he would be wounded the next day, but if he kicked it, he would be killed. But the closest Saturday got to a battle was a tightly fought girls' tug-of-war between Scotland High School, on exchange from Laurinburg, North Carolina, and Oban High School, who eventually emerged as victors.

The games' chieftain David 'Jocky' Martin, a shinty fan and star traffic warden from BBC's *The Council*, led Mull and Iona Pipe Band onto the field, welcoming all, and thanking those who made it possible.

Commentator Angus Mackay from Inveraray, a veteran of agricultural shows, hosted his first Highland

games for five hours without a break.

'I have never done a Highland games before,' he said. 'I am loving this. It is the same concept as an agricultural show: it is about entertainment. I just hope people love it.'

The oldest recorded field games in Scotland are held in Ceres, Fife, which was granted by Robert the Bruce in thanks for the victory at Bannockburn, but the 'people's games' in Oban only started in 2013.

Treasurer David McGregor clocked 1,350 tickets sold at this year's games, which attracted twice as many visitors as locals.

He said: 'We are delighted with the turnout. It is partly the weather, and the message of the family games. We are pushing through on a day



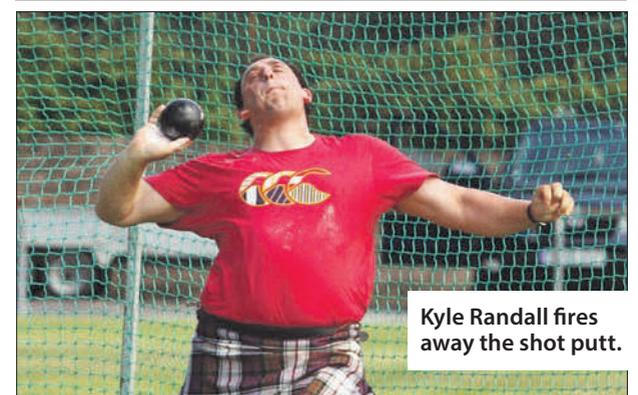
when people are likely to have free time. The takings are up, but the costs are up. We are facing a bill of £1 per person for using Mossfield.'

Oban High School pupils helped set up, and police youth volunteers and girl guides also assisted on the day.

Mr McGregor said: 'These games only go ahead because of the help of volunteers. We are desperately in need of more. We will need to take a decision in the next few months whether there is a



Jocky Martin has a chat in the sun with heavy judge Ewan MacPherson.



Kyle Randall fires away the shot putt.

Lorne Highland Games 2019. It would be a dreadful shame if we cannot continue.

'Please, we are all getting old,' he appealed: 'The committee needs to be bolstered. We want to capture more people to put on the show. We would be delighted to see them.'

Anyone interested in helping is invited to email: info@lorne-highland-games.org.uk for more information.

For full race report and results, visit www.obantimes.co.uk/2018/06/26/lorne-highland-show-races-round-up-and-results/

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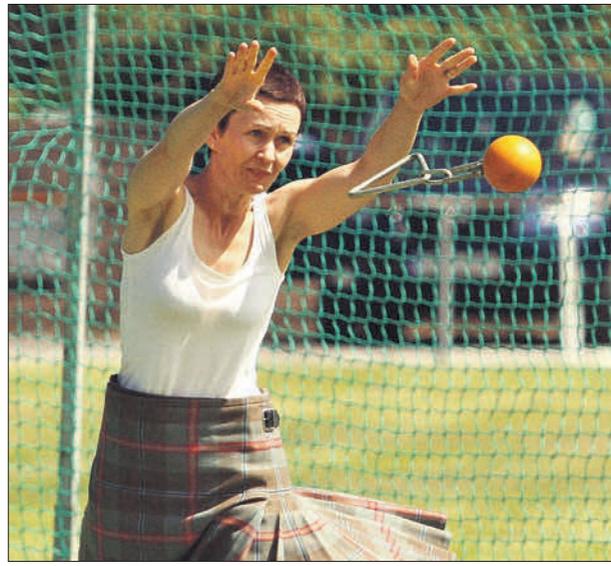
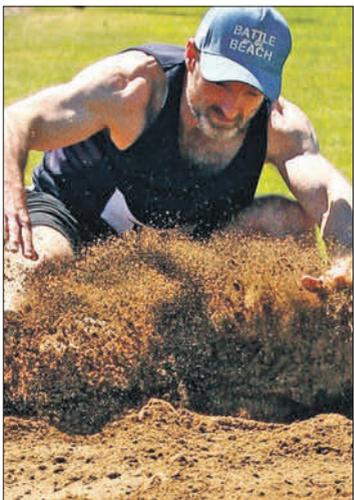
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Clockwise from far left: Highland dance winners, left to right: Kari McMillan, 6, from Campbeltown, and Rachael Steward, 11, from North Connel, both won beginners trophies in their age groups, while Sophie Galbraith, 8, and Tiffany Norris, 11, both from Campbeltown, took the novice trophies; Chieftan Jocky Martin meets dog show judges and games organisers; a team of Oban ladies took on a team from Laurinberg exchange students in a tug of war, with Oban taking a narrow win; Chloe Campbell, 13, with a host of rosettes won by her dogs Rex, Bran and Sparky; Oban's Lyndsay Elliot fires away the light hammer in her first attempt at Lorne Highland Games; Stephanie Summers gives her dog Alfie a hug after he picked up the prize for the finest of fellows; Oban High School PE teacher David McLaughlin hits the sand in the long jump competition.

Photographs: Kevin McGlynn and Sandy Neil



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editor@obantimes.co.uk



Catilena Festival

If the call of the cuckoo heralds the arrival of spring, the island's annual Catilena Festival confirms the month of July is here.

The six-day festival of classic and baroque music takes place from Sunday July 8 to Friday July 13 in various island venues and features a group of professional musicians and senior students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

All will be under the musical control of artistic directors Angus Ramsay and Scott Mitchell.

The opening concert on the evening of July 8 takes place in the St Columba Gaelic Centre where everyone can enjoy piano compositions from Haydn, Mozart and Brahms. The young musicians will present their professional showcase on Monday July 9 in Laphroaig Distillery and music by Purcell and Elgar will be among the favourites at Lagavulin Distillery the following evening. The Gaelic Centre will also be the setting on Wednesday July 11 for a piano recital by Havilland Willshire, followed by works by Beethoven, Bridge and Shostakovich.

Compositions by Telemann and Rossini will form part of the recitals at Ardbeg Distillery on Thursday July 12 and Bruichladdich village hall will host the closing concert on the Friday evening which includes the classical ceilidh, now a firm favourite, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

The organisers hope extra concerts will take place, including the musicians' first performance on neigh-

bouring Jura. Entertaining passengers on the cruise ship Hebridean Princess is also on the cards.

All the festival performances begin at 7.30pm and this year's programme will also include music reflecting WWI 100 commemorations and the loss of the SS Tuscania and HMS Otranto off Islay's shores in the closing months of the 1914-18 hostilities.

Distillery changes

Georgie Crawford, manager of the Diageo-owned Lagavulin Distillery for the past seven years, has been appointed project implementation manager at Port Ellen Maltings which the parent company plans to bring back into whisky production 35 years after its closure as a working distillery.

This is part of a £35m investment by Diageo's and will include a return to production at Brora Distillery, which also closed in 1983. It is planned both distilleries will be back in action in 2020.

Georgie is delighted with her new post and is looking forward to having the spirit flowing again at Port Ellen.

The new manager at Lagavulin is Colin Gordon, who was the previous manager at the island maltings. He is equally pleased with his new appointment and said 'it was an honour to be trusted with this important job'.

Good distilling and Slàinte Mhath to them both.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.

Minister retires

Islay will be without a Church of Scotland minister when the Rev Valerie Watson retires from parish ministry on Sunday July 1.

She was inducted into her three linked island charges of Kilchoman, Portnahaven and Kilmeny in 2013 and has been a popular local minister who has worked tirelessly for her parishioners.

In January of this year she oversaw, with Argyll Presbytery's approval, her three parishes uniting and now operating under the banner of the North West Islay Church of Scotland.

In May 2015, she was appointed the interim moderator for the vacant linked parishes of Kilarrow, Kildalton and Oa and Jura. This followed the translation of the former interim moderator, the Rev Thomas Bryson, from Tarbert Parish Church to Nairn's St Ninian's and Auldearn churches. The churches in the three-way link still remain vacant and attempts to attract a new minister to the charges continue.

Valerie will be greatly missed by all the island congregations whom she has served with enthusiasm and dedication. She was happy in her Islay ministry as befits one who has strong paternal links with the island,



The Rev Valerie Watson.

the Gruinart district in particular.

Over the past weeks, a number of presentations have been made to the departing minister and these recognise the esteem in which she has been held among local worshippers.

Everyone wishes her a long and happy retirement as she returns to her native town of Greenock.

ACHA tenants win national award

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and its tenants are celebrating after its 'Your Voice' tenants scrutiny group won the Most Inspiring Scrutiny Newcomer Award at the Tenants Information Service (TIS) Annual Awards night, hosted by TV and radio presenter Cat Harvey.

There were nine categories with finalists selected from a long list of applicants by an independent judging panel

consisting of representatives from local authorities, registered social landlords and the Scottish Government. The awards honour groups which are making a difference within the Scottish social housing sector.

Jennie Niven, a member of the Your Voice group who lives on Tirie, said: 'We are a group of ordinary ACHA tenants putting the services ACHA deliver under the spotlight and changing

them for the better. We are delighted our work has been recognised.'

Yvonne Angus, ACHA's regional manager, said: 'Customers are at the heart of everything we do. The Your Voice group embraces this commitment and enables real scrutiny and accountability of our organisation and its services. We are delighted the group's hard work and commitment to improve services has been recognised.'



David Rae (ACHA), left, Jennie Niven, David Phillips, Ian McIntyre, Bobby Beggs, Susan Morris (TIS) and Yvonne Angus (ACHA) at the awards.

Isles MP fights for refugee families

The issue of reuniting refugee families was brought back to the House of Commons last Thursday June 21 when Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil led a backbench debate on his Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Under Home Office rules, adults with refugee status in the UK are able to sponsor their spouses/partners and their children under 18 to join them. It's hard to imagine just how much joy must come at that moment of reunion.'

'But the restrictive nature of those rules, and the limited definition of family contained within them, leaves many unable to experience that joy. Children over 18 are not covered, nor are elderly parents or nieces and nephews. How many parents think their children stop needing them just because they've turned 18?'

'The UK does not allow refugee children any family reunion rights at all, the only country within the EU to do so. Children who have been recognised by the government as being in need of protection, and for whom it is not safe to return home, are not able to be joined by even their closest relatives. Instead, children have to try to rebuild their lives in a new country without their parents to support them.'

The Bill is supported by MPs from across the House of Commons, as well as the Refugee Council, British Red Cross, Amnesty International, Oxfam GB and UNHCR.

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MSP praises Western Isles lottery team

Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery has been spreading the word about its success and how proceeds have already benefited every age group across the constituency.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan met the team behind it and became the latest islander to sign up for regular tickets via the WILL website www.westernisleslottery.co.uk.

Since its launch in August 2017, support has steadily increased and an average of 1,650 tickets are being purchased for each Saturday night draw.

The more supporters who join in, the higher the weekly prize pot rises and the more that can be returned to their areas.

In just 10 months, a

total of £53,765 has been raised to date, with £15,300 having been shared out in weekly prizes and £38,500 having been returned to the community.

The lottery is on target to raise £65,000 in its first year. With more supporters joining in at £1 per week via the website, much more can be raised and distributed.

Ensuring a fair distribution of funds was important to the team and a postcode system was devised whereby proceeds of any ticket purchased in a particular area was directly returned there.

Six established groups take responsibility for ensuring funds are utilised as effectively as possible in their communities.

Dr Allan said: 'It's great to

see such a fantastic local initiative take off and flourish.

'With the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery, people can be sure the proceeds are kept within the islands and that local causes will be supported.'

'I congratulate the lottery team on the amount raised and I look forward to seeing if I have won in Saturday's draw!'

Emma Fraser, on behalf of the lottery, added: 'We can only continue to work hard at developing the lottery which, in turn, can only be successful with continued public support. Our motto is "Where There's a WILL There's a Way" – and we have already shown how beneficial a home-grown lottery can be to our islands.'



Alasdair Allan MSP, left, with Tony Robson, Janet Paterson and Emma Fraser from the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery.



It was all smiles at the launch of the Library Lego Club in Stornoway. Left to right are Janet Paterson and Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery team members Tony Robson and Malcolm Paterson with Helene Lagrange from Stornoway Library and some keen Lego builders.

Western Isles has first Lego club

This summer will see the launch of the first Library Lego Club in the Western Isles, thanks to a donation of Lego bricks and parts from the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery.

The Lego Club will take place in The Space, the new MakerSpace area in Stornoway Library. The space has been created with the help of Scottish Government Public Library Improvement Fund and plans to offer a range of digital and creative opportunities for the community – as well as Lego.

Kathleen Milne, libraries manager, said: 'We always wanted Lego to be an important part of the space as it is such a fantastic creative and learning activity for all ages. However, we weren't sure if we actually had enough Lego to support a regular club.'

'Thanks to the generous donation of additional Lego by the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery, we now have enough to launch a Library Lego Club over the summer holidays.'

The growth of the Lego club will depend

on the success of this summer's trial period which could potentially see the club expanding to other areas of the Western Isles.

Janet Paterson, founder of the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery, added: 'The lottery team grasped the opportunity to purchase a large quantity of Lego with the vision of supporting the popular Lego club concept already available in mainland communities.'

'The new library space was the perfect central location and we are delighted to have worked alongside the library team to very quickly make this a reality in time for the summer holiday period.'

The Library Lego Club will be running over the summer along with some Code Club taster sessions as well as the opportunity to experience a virtual reality moon landing.

All the events are free but booking is recommended.

For more information, visit the library or get in touch at 01851 822744 / library.enquiries@cne-siar.gov.uk.



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OT

Young musicians star at Ardnamurchan Mòd

Dozens of young traditional musicians recently travelled to Ardnamurchan High School to showcase their talent at the annual Mòd Aird nam Murchan.

The five peninsula primary schools, the high school and pupils from Mull, Oban and Fort William took part in choral, solo singing, instrumental, poetry recitation and conversation competitions on Friday June 15. The committee was also delighted to have several adult competitors this year as well as Burach, Morvern's adult Gaelic choir.

Despite inclement weather everyone had a great day and adjudicators commented on the high standard of entries. Everyone agreed Ardnamurchan



Millie Bonniwell, a seven-year-old pupil of Rockfield Primary School and Oban Mòd Academy from North Connel, won age seven to eight fluent solo singing and fluent prescribed poetry.

High School was a wonderful setting for the mòd. In the evening, a packed audience

enjoyed the prizewinners' concert.

The event was particularly poignant this year as Mairi MacColl, Charlie MacColl's widow, and their son Callum attended to present the trophies.

Convenor Fiona MacLean told the audience what a great supporter Charlie had been of the Ardnamurchan Mòd.

Following a ceilidh in Kilmallie last year, his family donated a substantial sum to Mòd Aird nam Murchan.

As well as running a workshop a few weeks ago for primary school children, the committee used some of the money for the Charlie MacColl Memorial Shield, to be awarded to the local learner or fluent speaker achieving the highest mark in conversation classes, as he

was so passionate about encouraging youngsters to learn and converse in Gaelic.

In its inaugural year, Mairi presented the shield to Sean MacLellan, Ardnamurchan High School, for achieving an outstanding mark in the 13-15 years' fluent conversation class.

Committee members were delighted that after months of hard work by pupils, teachers and tutors everyone performed so well and enjoyed themselves.

Good luck wishes were extended to everyone competing at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon this year. The committee looks forward to welcoming everyone back to Ardnamurchan next year.



Brendan O'Hara MP and Angela Constance MSP with Bashar and his wife at their new bakery.

Family celebrates new Bute business

A Syrian family who moved to Bute two years ago have realised their dream of opening a bakery business.

Following the official opening recently, Helmi's Patisserie has been going down a storm with locals.

Within two hours of official trading, Mohamed and Bashar were sold out of their sought-after homemade treats and queues continued into the weekend.

Brendan O'Hara MP and Angela Constance MSP and Scottish Government communities secretary visited Rothesay's newest hotspot at the weekend.

Mr O'Hara said: 'Two years ago I was invited to join Bashar Helmi, his family and other members of the Syrian community on Bute for a traditional Syrian meal. During the meal we talked about

their past experiences as well as their future plans.

'Bashar talked about his son-in-law Mohamed – a celebrated pastry chef – and showed amazing photographs of his creations. Bashar's overwhelming desire was to be reunited with his daughter, son-in-law and his granddaughter and for them, one day, to open a bakery on Bute.

'I am delighted for Bashar, Mohamed and their family on their fantastic new business venture and I wish them every success. The recent success stories of Helmi's Patisserie and the Orient Salon on Bute shows what a positive difference immigration makes to Scotland. It's not about where you come from, it's about where we're going together and I think the recent success here in Rothesay shows just that.'

Oban Common Good Fund grant deadline

The deadline for the next round of funding from the Oban Common Good Fund is Sunday July 15.

The fund is administered by Argyll and Bute Council and enables voluntary or charitable organisations to apply for funding towards 'one-off' projects.

Oban Common Good Fund chairwoman Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'The trust fund is a wonderful asset to Oban and has helped to fund many groups, large and small, with projects which benefit the people of Oban.'

The fund was originally set up in 1913 by Janet Sinclair,

who bequeathed her properties in Stafford Street and Dalriach Road to Oban Town Council 'for the common good of the Burgh of Oban and its inhabitants'.

In the last year alone the fund has benefited Oban Live, Oban Winter Festival and the Highlands and Islands Music

and Dance Festival. It has also provided grants to Oban Girl Guides, the Oban branch of Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and Oban Otters.

For further information visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/common-good-funds/oban or email commongood-funds@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Historic day as Ulva changes hands

The Isle of Ulva has passed out of private ownership and into the hands of the local community.

Schoolchildren from Ulva Ferry, residents of Ulva and north-west Mull, sponsors and supporters witnessed a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week marking the historic occasion.

The bid to buy Ulva was launched around a year ago when the owner, Jamie Howard, put the estate on the market. North West Mull Community Woodland Company, whose membership area includes Ulva, applied for a community right to buy under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

The aim is to bring about social and economic development of Ulva for the benefit of the community, with a key objective being re-population of the island.

Ulva resident Rebecca Munro said: 'I believe the people who live and work here are best placed to run the island. All we are asking for is the chance to shape our own future and provide opportunities for our children and generations to come. Community ownership offers us a say in that future. And that is what makes it essential.'



Islanders now own Ulva.

A price of £4.65 million was agreed and an ambitious fundraising effort was mounted to secure the money needed. The bulk of the price and assistance with project management for the first two years is coming from the Scottish Land Fund.

Roseanna Cunningham, cabinet secretary for land reform, said: 'This is a historic day for Ulva and I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to the North West Mull Community Woodland Company for seeing the sale through to its conclusion. It can now press ahead with its ambitious plans to regenerate the local economy and ultimately re-populate the island.'

Planning and design services, valued at around £25,000,

have been offered pro bono by Moxon Architects Ltd to get the existing houses renovated as quickly as possible.

Welcome letters of support were received from local and national organisations including Ulva School Community Association, Mull and Iona Community Trust, South West Mull and Iona Development, Mull Fishermen's Association, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Woodland Trust Scotland, Community Land Scotland, Turus Mara, Our Island Home, Mull Charters, Development Trusts Association Scotland, Rural Housing Scotland, Community Woodlands Association, the Boathouse Restaurant, local fishing boat owners and other businesses.

MacPhail

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The release of the open sea

As I write this I am steaming down Loch Linnhe bound for Oban.

The bright summer sun is drenching Ben Nevis behind us and a light southwesterly breeze is caressing the surface of the sea into a rhythm of gentle wave on ploughing boat.

This is the St Olave's first outing on the sea this year and the way she is moving and the happy roar of the engines suggest that she is feeling relieved to have escaped the entrapping fresh water of Loch Lochy, the claustrophobic confines of the Caledonian Canal and the descending depths of Neptune's Staircase.

Heading for Oban feels very different today compared with how it has felt in recent years because last Wednesday, after a long and complex road to reach it, and with much help from some very special people, we completed the sale of the business and an extended lease of the Skipinnish Ceilidh House.

I first moved to Oban in April 2008 to take on the running of the Ceilidh House and from then until now it has been a very significant part of my life, so the decision to sell was not easily made.

We are lucky and very grateful for the surge in popularity the band has had in the last few years and juggling this along with running the venue has become increasingly difficult.

This, coupled with the fact that our lease was coming to an end in September, pointed us towards the possibility that it made sense not to



Skipinnish Ceilidh House is now under new ownership.

renew terms.

However, making decisions like this is never black and white. There were other issues to be considered that pulled us back to thinking that continuing for another 10-year term was what we should do, foremost among them, maintaining the jobs of our staff and the wish that the venue would continue to operate.

So, bearing these issues in mind it had been decided that we would probably soldier on with the juggling, renew the lease and by hook or by crook make it work.

As it often does in such circumstances, fate and good fortune helped solve our dilemma as a number of months ago we were approached by three energetic young people from Oban full of enthusiasm who were very keen to take on the business if we would consider selling.

They made us a fair offer and after a complex legal journey, agreements have now been settled in conjunction with the landlords and over the coming weeks ownership of the business under a new name will pass to this new company.

The following is an extract from the Skipinnish Facebook page: 'For over 10 years the Skipinnish Ceilidh House has been a very sig-

nificant part of our lives and we are very grateful to all who have worked with us and helped us along the way.

'It has been the catalyst for meeting and working with some of the finest human beings we know and we are privileged to have been part of a great team running the venue.

'We pass on huge thanks to all our staff, stewards, DJs, musicians, singers, dancers, customers and suppliers, past and present.

'A particular thanks to Claire MacDonald and Duncan Campbell who have been as solid as rocks since our very early days in the venue and have performed exceptionally to keep things running in our increasing absence.'

On a personal level, I have had many happy and many difficult times in and related to the Skipinnish Ceilidh House and the memories will last.

Perhaps though, after the last few years of dilemma in deciding what to do with the venue, part of me feels like the St Olave felt today having escaped the confines of the loch as the magic, freedom and relief of the open sea awaits.

More news of the new business taking our place coming soon.

Skye out-of-hours provision

The rural practitioner team based at the Dr Mackinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford is now providing out-of-hours provision on Skye.

The service began at 6pm on Monday June 25.

People should still dial 999 if they experience a medical emergency and the

Scottish Ambulance Service will respond as appropriate.

If it is not an emergency but cannot wait until the GP surgery is open, NHS 24 can be accessed after 6pm by dialling 111.

The minor injuries unit/urgent care centre based at Portree Hospital re-opened at 8am on Tuesday June 26.

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OT

Argyll soldier added to university roll of honour

A Tarbert soldier awarded the Military Cross for gallantry is to be honoured for his part in the First World War, with his name being added to Glasgow University's roll of honour.

Archibald Campbell Brown was born on March 4, 1886 in Tarbert, the son of James, the late postmaster in Tarbert, and Margaret Brown, living at Dunalasdair, Tarbert.

Biographical information on the university's website, by John Houston, a member of the Scottish Military Research Group states Archibald attended Tarbert high school before studying at Glasgow University, matriculating in 1904/05, and graduating with a master of arts in 1906.

After graduating, Archibald attended teacher training college and is commemorated on the Jordanhill Teacher Training College Memorial.

He enlisted in the 17th Highland Light Infantry in September 1914 and served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders in 1915.

After returning home in December 1916, he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, 14th (Service) Bn., Princess Louise's, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on April 26, 1917, and, after a period of training at Alston Hall and Holbeton, Reading, he went back to France that September, and was killed in action on April 20, 1918, aged 32.

He was awarded the MC (London Gazette, September 16, 1918) for gallant and distinguished service in the field.

An officer wrote: 'He was one of the bravest men who joined Kitchener's Army.'

His citation entry in the

London Gazette, dated September 13, 1918 read: 'T./2nd Lt. Archibald Brown, Arg. & Suth'd Highrs, For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer, in command of a fighting patrol, was ordered to clear the enemy out of a strong point in an advanced trench.

'On reaching the trench the patrol came under very heavy machine-gun fire; he at once dashed forward with his men and succeeded in putting three guns out of action, killing the teams, and bringing back a prisoner.

'Though wounded, he continued to do duty during the remainder of the operations.'

Second Lieutenant Brown is buried at Agny-les-Duisans, Etais near Arras, northern France.

As well as the Jordanhill memorial, 2nd Lieutenant Brown is commemorated on

the Tarbert Memorial. Others being honoured alongside Archibald are a successful rugby player who was capped for Scotland, a respected doctor and family man, as well as a grocer's son who cut short his studies to join the war effort, and a secondary school teacher.

These men were among the fallen of the First World War whose names, until now, were missing from the University of Glasgow's Roll of Honour.

Researchers at the university identified the 19 additional names by using digital resources and confirmed their connection to the university using student records held by the University of Glasgow Archives.

Now, 100 years after the war, their names will be carved in stone alongside those of the men and women already remembered in the university

Memorial Chapel, and their families invited to memorial services on Remembrance Sunday, on November 11, 2018.

Katie McDonald, Researcher with the College of Arts, University of Glasgow, said: 'We are still piecing together the stories behind the names of the fallen and ask anyone who has any information about them and any pictures of them to get in touch.'

The university is asking people who have any more information, family stories or pictures related to the 19 additional names to get in touch with the chapel by calling: 0141 330 5419 or email: chaplaincy@glasgow.ac.uk

To view the records the university holds on the fallen, contact archives@glasgow.ac.uk or call 0141 330 5515.

North Uist woman to fight seat at Westminster

The Western Isles Labour Party has selected a North Uist woman with a strong history of community involvement as its candidate for the next Westminster General Election.

Alison MacCorquodale, from Paiblesgarry, currently works as an economic development officer for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

An honours law graduate, she is also secretary of Unison's Western Isles local government branch.

Her immediate message was that the Western Isles is in urgent need of a strong political voice to address the specific needs of the constituency.

Ms MacCorquodale said: 'The future of our fragile islands' economy depends on attracting more people here while retaining our current population. I will work constructively with anyone, regardless of party label, to achieve these outcomes.'



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Islay WW100 events group wins praise

Members of Argyll and Bute Council will formally thank Islay's WW100 committee for providing an inspirational and ambitious programme of events to commemorate the centenary of the sinking of SS Tuscania and the collision of HMS Otranto, which took place off the shores of Islay during the First World War.

At a meeting of the full council this week, members will pay tribute to the group for their part in organising the national remembrance events, honouring those who died in the incidents, and providing a lasting legacy for the local community.

Argyll and Bute Provost Len Scoullar said: 'The WW100 group, both national and local, must be congratulated for

arranging such a well-organised series of events to honour and pay respect to those who lost their lives in these tragedies, and commemorate the people of Islay who were involved in the response to the incidents.

'Particular mention must be made to the group's chair, Jenni Minto, and the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart, for the hard work and dedication they have shown throughout the whole process. The success of these events is a great credit to them, the organisers and the local community.

'I would also like to thank the council officers who were involved in the commemorations for all their help in ensuring the day went smoothly

as well as the island's school pupils for their valuable contributions.

'The island really came together, engaging young and old, showcasing resilience, compassion and kindness. It was a great pleasure and a privilege for Argyll and Bute Council to be part of this.'

The commemorations took place last month and attracted worldwide media attention. They were attended by HRH the Princess Royal and her husband Sir Tim Laurence, as well as a number of senior representatives from the UK, the USA, France and Germany, and members of a wide range of communities across Islay and descendants of those people involved in the tragedy at the time.



A service was held at the Mull of Oa in May to remember the servicemen who died.



The Friends of Oban Hospice committee members at the fashion show.

Friends of Oban Hospice turn on the style

The Friends of Oban Hospice, the fundraising arm of the Oban Hospice movement, held its annual fashion show at the Corran Halls last Tuesday evening.

The show was once again a sell-out, raising in excess of £1,500 for the charity, which runs the Dove Centre in Oban's Stevenson Street.

The evening is based on well-known brands of garments being modelled and then sold at discounted prices.

This is the charity's fourth event, with each one a resounding success with perhaps this year the best yet to the extent that there were calls for it to be held twice a year.

Much credit goes to event organiser Joyce Millar, who, along with her fellow committee members, put together a very professional show.

The friends' next fundraising event will be a wheel of fortune at the Macaulay Shinty Cup final in August.



The fashion show in the Corran Halls was a sell-out.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Entries sought for awards

The Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) is seeking entries for the annual Business Excellence Awards which recognise the achievement of businesses across the Highlands and Islands.

The awards will be presented at SCDI's annual Highlands and Islands dinner on Friday September 7, hosted by comedian Milton Jones.

Award categories include the following:

Crown Estate Award for Excellence in a Marine Business; Highlands and Islands Enterprise Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation; the Liberty British Aluminium Award for Outstanding Business Ambassador; the Scottish Environment Protection Agency Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability; SCDI Highlands and Islands Chairman's Award for Outstanding Business Achievement; Award for Excellence in People Development.

Fraser Grieve, SCDI's Highlands and Islands director, said: 'We are fortunate to have some exceptional companies based in and working across the Highlands and Islands, and these awards are a way of recognising the talents and achievement of some of our greatest successes over the past year. I encourage businesses and organisations of all shapes and sizes to apply.'

Full details of each category can be found at <https://www.scdi.org.uk/events/hiawards18/> and entries should be made by Wednesday August 1.

Award prompts new investment proposal

Following its landmark achievement in scooping the Aquaculture Supplier of the Year award at the recent Aquaculture UK exhibition, Mull-based Inverlussa Marine Services (IMS) is now looking to build upon this success by further investing in the business.

IMS – one of Scotland's leading workboat operators – won the award at the Aviemore expo in recognition of the quality of service it provides to customers.

Employing 70 people, predominantly from the Highlands and Islands, the company has seen significant growth in recent years.

Its vessels are built to meet the specific requirements of the aquaculture sector and in the past three years alone the number of craft in its fleet has doubled. This included taking delivery of two specially designed 25.5m work vessels in 2017, which went straight into service for fish farm customers.

Ben Wilson, IMS managing director, said the award was testimony to the hard work and dedication of its workforce in providing the best quality service to Scotland's growing and economically important aquaculture sector.

He added: 'This award recognises the hard work all our crew and shore staff do on a daily basis. The service we provide to our customers is our key focus, which is delivered by a talented workforce.'

'For the future, we intend to continue with our investment programme – including the acquisition of new vessels and providing staff with the highest-level training – so that we can deliver innovative solutions to the market



One of Inverlussa's vessels, the Gina Mary.

and meet the ever-changing requirements of our customers.'

IMS is also committed to supporting the local Mull community and earlier this year the company launched an innovative new youth training programme for school leavers, encouraging them to build a career with an island company.

Mr Wilson said: 'We are determined to

encourage local employment, training and support here in Mull. Aquaculture is a vital industry to Scotland's fragile west coast communities. It is sustainable and provides a high quality product in global demand, which means the sector offers great career prospects, as well as opportunities for local economic growth.'

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Lochaber firms prepare to enter Dragons' Glen

It might seem like quite a way off, but the team at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is already busy planning for another great Lochaber Ideas Week, from November 12 to 16.

Lochaber Ideas Week is a celebration of innovation in business that brings Lochaber business people and the wider community together every November.

One of the most popular events in Lochaber Ideas Week is the Dragons' Glen business competition, where anyone with a great business idea can pitch their plan to win an amazing £10,000 cash prize generously donated by the West Coast Communities Growth Fund (administered through Foundation Scotland).

The Dragons' Glen competition is open to everyone based in Lochaber, whether they are already in business or not.

Anyone who thinks they have spotted a gap in the market or an exciting new way of doing something can enter the competition.

Following a similar format to



The 2017 judges were: Anja Baak, Angus MacDonald, Emma Parton and Steve Ham.

the popular business-pitching TV show, four local entrepreneurs and business people quiz the contestants on their business plan and ambitions in front of a packed audience.

Contestants are asked to submit their ideas, with a business plan, and prepare a short video presentation to be shown on the competition night.

The judges' decision is entirely independent, and based on their individual assessments of the candidates' business ideas.

Now in its fifth year, Dragons' Glen has helped lots of great new business ideas to take shape.

There has been an amazing variety in the kind of business ideas submitted over the years: from distinctive hand-crafted

Highland lamps and ornaments, to a new glamping site, seaweed-based products and more.

Previous winners have included the 3WiseMonkeys climbing centre, Clark Pods wooden camping pods, Lorna Gillies fashion designer and Kinlochlovin' social enterprise company.

Anyone who thinks their idea could be the next big thing, should keep their eyes peeled for details of the competition opening soon. Whether they already have a firm idea of what they want to do, or they are waiting for inspiration to strike, now is the time to start preparing.

Dragons' Glen will open for entries this summer, so dust off the business plan, get to work on that spreadsheet and start practising the pitch. No idea is too big or too small. Anyone could be the lucky winner of £10,000.

Find out more about local business events, training and networking opportunities at www.lochaberchamber.co.uk. To ask about joining, call 01397 705765.

CalMac confirm managing director

Western Isles Council has welcomed CalMac's decision to appoint Robbie Drummond as managing director, saying it will provide 'greater certainty and continuity'.

Mr Drummond, pictured, who replaced Martin Dorchester, has been acting interim managing director at the ferry company since February.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar councillor Uisdean Robertson said: 'This provides greater certainty and continuity going forward and gives us the opportunities to continue to pursue our previous areas of priority with CalMac.'

'The importance of local knowledge is key to effective decision-making and providing accurate information in the event of planned and unplanned service interruptions, and we know that Mr Drummond recognises the importance of locally-based operations staff.'

'Fairer vessel deployment is of key importance to island communities.'



The Lochaber Times caught up with Gillies Pagan of Fiuran Property to talk about their recent expansion into Fort William...

Where did it all start for Fiuran start?

Fiuran started in 2013 in response to the need for quality local estate agency at a competitive price. With the vast majority of property searches now being conducted online, it was clear that this was the direction the industry was taking, however technology can't replace good old face-to-face contact, so we thought it would make sense to combine the two.

How did the business develop?

Laura and I focused on what we were good at which is residential sales in the Oban and Lorn area. By concentrating on this we became the biggest agent in the area by number of sales, selling almost twice as many properties as our next closest competitor in the year to 1st August 2017.

What has been the key to your success?

Simply by consistently delivering great value and excellent service to happy customers; so many companies get this basic step wrong. Everyone at Fiuran has a passion for property and our local areas - we

love what we do which makes every day fun.

So why are you expanding now?

We were insistent on ensuring that we didn't grow too quickly. We needed to ensure we had all of the correct procedures and systems in place, such as our own management software which we designed and had developed and tailored specifically for our business. Fiuran is very much a 'people' business, and its success is dependent on having the right people in our organisation. We very deliberately held off expanding until we had the right people to support the change in dynamics. We wanted to ensure we had a team that was local to Lochaber, highly professional & organised, and very personable who would always do the very best for the client. Kelie and her team have all of these qualities and more!

Why Fort William?

Since starting our business, we have regularly had calls from people in the Lochaber area asking us to sell their properties for them but we really had to wait until we were confident

Fiuran owners Gillies and Laura Pagan with Kelie Cooper (centre).



we could deliver the same first class service in this area. We are now in a position to offer the people of Fort William and surrounding area the same high quality service that we have delivered to Oban. We feel that Fort William is almost like a sister town to Oban, and there are countless synergies between the two. We feel that the west highland people appreciate the personal touch that our type of face-to-face business offers.

How important is face to face contact with your customers?

We Highlanders are sociable people and like to have the face-to-face contact with those we're dealing with. We can't abide the 'centralisation' of organisations such as banks where your only option to contact them is by web chat, or by phone when, after pressing multiple options, you might just get through to someone who might be able to assist.

Why Kelie?

We've known Kelie Cooper for well over ten years, and we know how immensely capable and professional she is, having previously won awards for her legal work as a Paralegal. Home buying and selling can be a stressful process and Kelie's long experience specialising in wills and executrices means she has great empathy and understanding to give her clients support when they need it, whilst getting the job done.

The smart way to buy
and sell property in
and around Fort William

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Fiuran
PROPERTY



Pat Cassidy, director of Govan Workspace, was awarded Best Rescue of a Historic Building in 2017.

Nominations wanted for Angel awards

Groups and individuals involved in heritage projects in the Highlands are being urged to enter the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards before nominations close on Friday June 29.

Time is running out to find those Angels who have played a special part in caring for, recording and celebrating the nation's historic environment.

The awards scheme is open to groups, individuals, volunteers and professionals across Scotland.

This year the awards ceremony will take place in Glasgow for the first time, with the eventual winners to be crowned at Glasgow City Chambers on Monday October 22.

Susan O'Connor, director of the Scottish Civic Trust, said: 'The Scottish Heritage Angel Awards are about honouring the contribution made by those groups and individuals who rescue, record and celebrate Scotland's historic buildings and places. The awards also provide an important opportunity to recognise the positive difference that heritage projects make to local communities all over the country. I'm looking forward to this year's nominations, which are sure to showcase the fantastic work being undertaken to support and promote our historic environment.'

For details on how to enter, nominate someone, or find out about our previous winners, please visit www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk.

When the world sailed into Oban

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



The sale recently of a fine builder's mirror-back, half model of a steam yacht called Mingary by one of London's famous auction houses provided a tangible link with Regatta Week in Oban Bay of more than a century ago when, every September, before turning south, dozens of magnificent yachts would gather off Kerrera where their owners partied as if they were already on the Riviera.

During the day they took part in regattas in the Sound of Mull or attended the Argyllshire Gathering to listen to the pipes and to watch kilted supermen throw things up and down a field from the comfort of the heavily-tweed members' enclosure.

And, as the sun sank behind the Morvern hills on a clear summer's evening, every yacht lit up Oban Bay with a brilliant fireworks display before their owners and guests went ashore to attend the glittering Argyllshire Gathering and Yacht Club Balls.

That was Oban at its best and the wealth these yachts and their owners brought to the town and the surrounding area was staggering. Today such a show might be found at Monte Carlo, but nowhere else in Europe.

The Mingary was owned by Charles Dunell Rudd of Ardnamurchan, vice-partner and co-founder of De Beers and Consolidated Gold Fields Ltd and vice-commodore of the Royal Highland Yacht Club.

The Mingary was designed by G L Watson and Co, of Glasgow, which produced some of the largest and most elegant steam yachts in the world for an international clientele which included most of the crowned heads of Europe.

Built in Troon by the Ailsa Shipbuilding

Co Ltd and delivered in August 1899, the Mingary, named after the medieval castle on Rudd's 55,000-acre estate, was 187ft long, 27ft broad and drew slightly less than 15ft. She had a steel hull and weighed 639 tons. Her triple expansion engines, supplied by Dunsmuir and Jackson of Glasgow, were capable of developing 123nhp, giving a respectable 13 knots from a single screw propeller.

The yacht was beautifully designed, having twin raked-back masts, a raised forecabin and a bridge midships, with spacious dining-saloon and other cabins on the main deck. In addition to the luxury accommodation on the cabin deck, she was fitted throughout with electric light, refrigeration, a complete steam-heating system, gearing, windlass, capstan and many other appliances not generally found in private yachts of the day.

Mingary's captain was Daniel Mackinnon, from Kylerhea on Skye, with the crew almost all coming from Ardnamurchan estate. The 1901 National Census shows seven crew members aboard her as she lay at her moorings in Salen Bay, Loch Sunart, ready to take the Rudds out at a moment's notice.

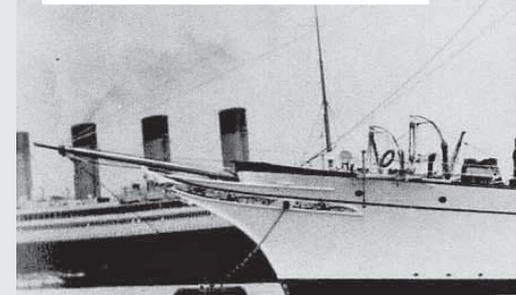
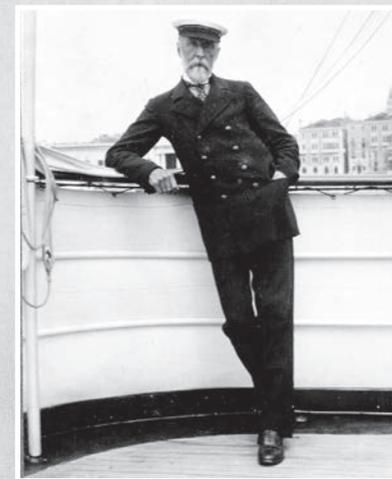
However, for a cruise to the Mediterranean in the spring of 1911, a further 18 were added, including two French chefs and a piper.

Little wonder it was said that the yacht cost more to run than the rest of the estate put together.

When Rudd wasn't using the Mingary, she was chartered out to various clients, including the father of Kenneth Clark of Civilisation fame, whose family had grown rich in the textile trade. Clark's great-great-grandfather invented the cotton spool, and started the Clark Thread Company of Paisley.

Another wealthy client was Sir Max Waechter, an advocate of a federal Europe.

In January 1915, Rudd leased the Mingary to the Admiralty, which clad her upper decks with armour plating, armed her with single 13-pounder and six-pounder guns, and sent



her out as an auxiliary patrol following the Battle of Jutland.

When the war ended, she was offered back to the family but, as Rudd had died in 1916, they declined. She sank at her moorings but was raised in March 1919 and sold to the Egypt and Levant SS Company, which converted her for commercial use. She was sold again

Selling your Whisky Cask?

If you own a cask of Scotch Whisky and are interested in selling it, we would love to hear from you.

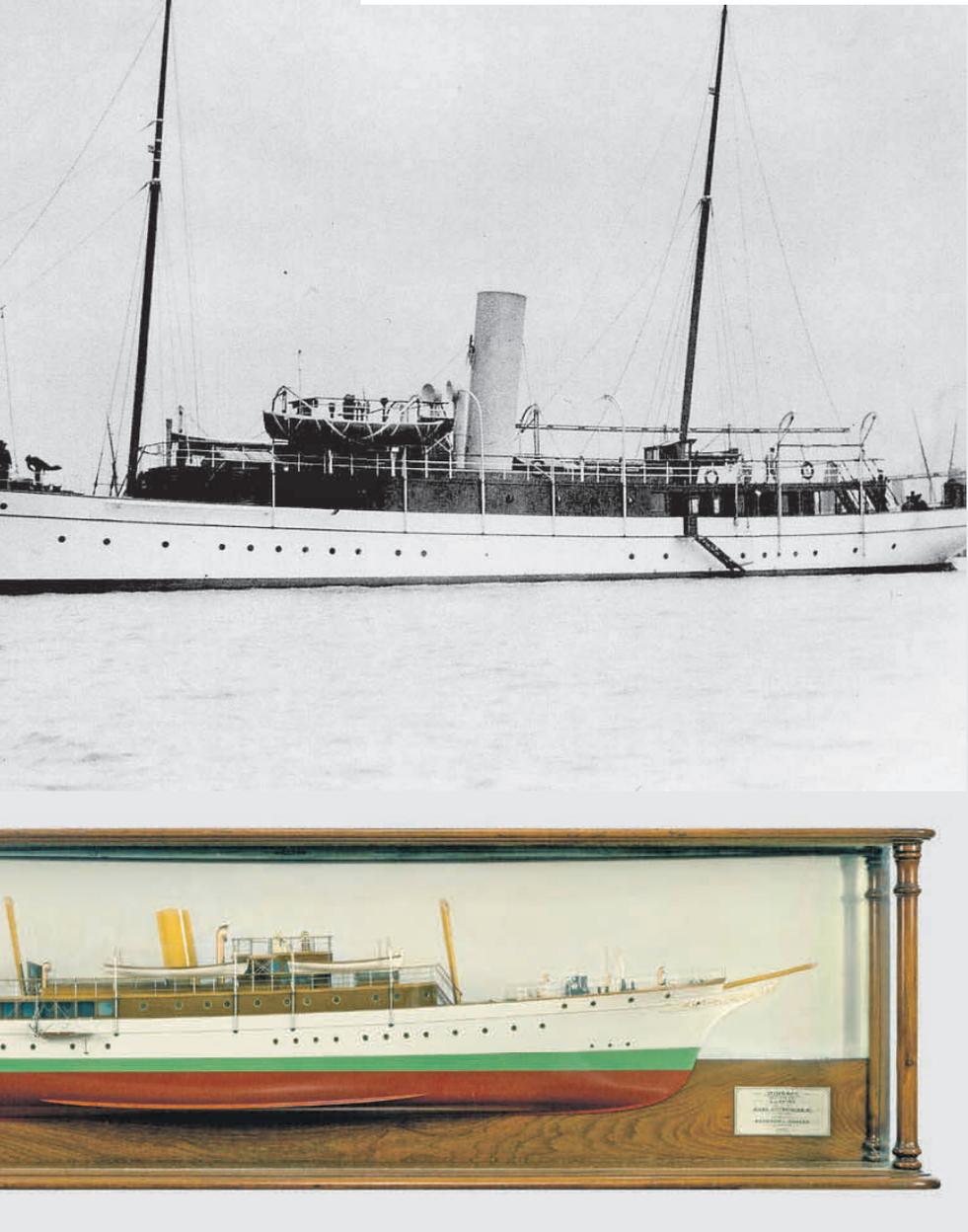
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 ATOM BRANDS

The steam yacht Mingary at Southampton docks with what is thought to be the Titanic behind. She was a familiar sight in Oban Bay. Inset is Charles Dunell Rudd aboard his yacht (Photographs: Iain Thornber) and, below, The builder's half model of the Mingary (Photograph: Charles Miller Ltd)



in 1924 to Turkish owners who renamed her Sevintch. She sank in fog off Cape Bozboroun in the Sea of Marmora on December 26, 1927, after a collision with the Turkish steamer Marmara (1,078 tons) in which 40 passengers were drowned.

Charles Rudd's grandson, Alan, inherited the builder's model, which he sold at auction

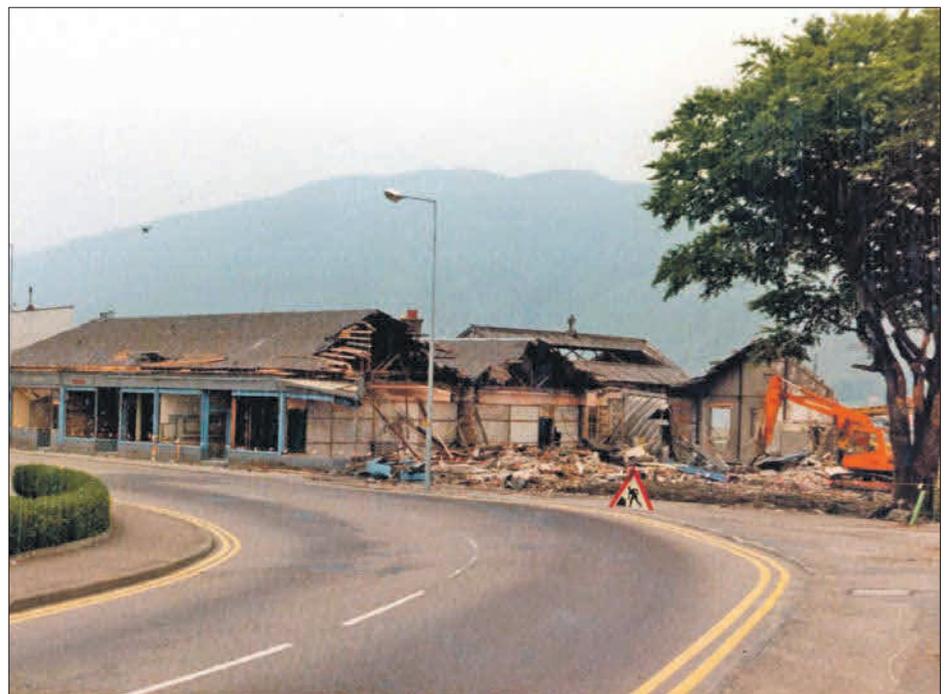
in 1992 to raise money for an extension to the Acharacle village community hall. It was sold to the captain of an English Channel ferry until it was tracked down and bought back by Alan Rudd's daughter. She put it on the market earlier this year and it went to a collector of marine memorabilia in America, sadly leaving the United Kingdom, most likely forever.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



This atmospheric photograph was sent in by reader Wilson Scott, who said it was 'taken on board the RMS Columba 1965'. They are, back, Andy Jordan from Oban and, left to right, John Gunn from Harris, Archie Kirkham from Mull and Chris Urquart from Tiree.



Beginning of the End of Lochaber and District Co-op.



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LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBA love story that all
in Argyll can share

Everybody loves a good love story. And this week, we have a wonderful tale of two sets of lovers spanning thousands of years.

A magnificent memorial was unveiled on the summit of Beinn Ghlas on Saturday to remember two love stories between Scotland and Ireland.

The Sheiling was commissioned by Sam MacDonald of Barguilean Estate near Taynult in memory of his Belfast-born wife Evelyn, who died from cancer last year. It is a dream fulfilled, with Sam telling us at the weekend, his wife 'would have loved it'.

Its sculptor David Wilson described the piece saying it looked: 'like it had been dropped down on the mountains by the gods 1,000 years ago'.

Not only is the sculpture a memorial to Evelyn, but also to remember a second, older love story, that of Deirdre and Naoise – a tragic tale of two doomed lovers who sought sanctuary, and peace, in Gleann Éite, not far from Sam and Evelyn's Sheiling.

Not only is the Sheiling a private memorial, but Sam and Evelyn have shared their love with everyone, giving those who need it a wonderful retreat, where they can enjoy the beauty of the Argyll scenery as well as the space and peace that nature provides.



The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

No evidence can be found of
reported unkempt gardens

Martin Laing in his column (The Oban Times, June 14) asked ACHA to get our act together with respect to two gardens in a terraced street in Oban that we own.

Despite contacting Mr Laing to clarify what he was referring to, we have been unsuccessful in getting any information from him to confirm that these addresses belong to ACHA.

The association staff locally have checked complaints we have received from members of the public which could possibly relate to what Mr Laing is talking about and we can find no evidence of two gardens not being looked after by ACHA tenants 'in a fairly typical residential street in Oban'.

If Mr Laing had contacted ACHA before he published his article, we could have clarified anything he wished to ask. Lazy journalism which doesn't check out all aspects of the story is becoming increasingly common.

For the record, ACHA responds proactively in dealing with anti-social issues, including our staff working closely with the police to evict drug dealers and those involved in anti-social behaviour. This includes ACHA staff attending Oban Sheriff Court in pursuit of that end.

These kind of facts around ACHA's commitment to community wellbeing appears to be of little interest to Mr Laing.

Alastair MacGregor,
Chief executive, ACHA.

It is important for people to
maintain their gardens

It is most important that pedestrians are safe on pavements but, unfortunately, the width of many pavements are being reduced by overgrown gardens, hedges and trees.

An elderly lady on a mobility scooter had great difficulty driving past an overgrown hedge on Lonan Drive in Oban, and was most fortunate not to have toppled into the road because the hedge was growing so far into the width of the pavement that only half the width was available. Another pedestrian avoided a facial injury due to an overhanging tree.

Please ensure garden growth is contained within your boundary so that pavements are available to pedestrians, prams, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Also, if you let out a second home, don't forget that your garden should be maintained. **Name and address supplied.**

Broadsheet format made
The Oban Times stand out

As Margaret Lindsay (Letters, June 14) rightly stated, the broadsheet format of The Oban Times made it stand out as special beside all the compact-style regional papers in newspaper stands.

Furthermore, the traditional format gave

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YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

to the content (the comprehensiveness and quality of which has not diminished) the ease of reading a whole subject section, contained within a two-page spread.

Now, in contrast, much searching and page-turning is necessitated by the new 80-page layout.

Of the 14 readers pictured and quoted in the first two compact editions all were in favour of the change. Surely Margaret Lindsay and myself are not alone in viewing it with regret.

Alasdair J S Sinclair,
by email.

Change of heart over the
new-look Oban Times

Last week you published my letter about the new style Oban Times and my comments were not too complimentary, tinged with a bit of sadness for the passing away of an era.

Well, I hope I am allowed to change my mind, because I thoroughly enjoyed poring over the new issue this week and am quickly

getting used to the new smaller format, which is much easier to handle. All the news and views are still there.

So, I apologise and take my hat off to you all, and I thank you for moving sensitively with the times.

Margaret Lindsay,
by email.

Changing newspaper to
compact is a mistake

Oh dear, Oban Times, what have you done? Once you stood tall and proud, head and shoulders above the rest, but now you're one in a crowd.

In the rush to join the compact brigade, you are in danger of losing the character, even the very essence, that defines The Oban Times in the name of modernity.

Those who wish to access their news through a 21st-century platform should do precisely that, and read it 24/7 online on their tablet (isn't that a sweet, sugary treat?) or other device, and leave



Fort William. This week's photograph is by William Chalmers from Falkirk and shows the entrance to Oban Bay in all its glory on a beautiful day. The photo was taken from McCaig's Tower.

are delighted that £4 million of taxpayers' money has been allocated to the islands.

Of course, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has signalled that this is for the purchase of the island of Ulva, and no doubt considerably more public money will be requested to deliver the Ulva development plans.

On the basis that this is public money, may I suggest that the people be given a say in the use of this £4 million. The 2,900 residents of the islands may have better use of the money, and the estimated 600,000 visitors should benefit too.

I have a few alternatives which could well be considered.

1. Decent broadband and mobile phone signal across the islands.

2. Paying for the upgrade of the ferry to Iona road, which is single track and in dire condition.

3. Badly needed upgrade of council houses and building of affordable homes.

4. Proper support for the Mull GP service.

**Angus MacDonald,
Roshven, Lochailort.**

Government and councils need to respect cemeteries

It appears that The Burials and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 passed unnoticed by councils and public alike. (Graveyard space is running out on Mull, Oban Times June 21).

The Act seeks to address the issues faced on Mull. Burial lairs in Scotland were sold 'in perpetuity'. The 2016 Act limits the time frame to 25 years with a possible extension for another 10. The council can then repackage the contents of the grave and rebury at a greater depth. The 'restored lair' is then available to be resold.

Scottish Borders Council (SBC) charge £1,034 for a two space burial lair. Using a generous 4ft-10ins area for a grave, this amounts to £1,126,000 per acre. Farmland in the borders is currently available for £127,000 per acre. A nice little earner for the local authority.

There is controversy in Berwickshire where SBC has flattened numerous gravestones judged to be a public danger.

Councils retain ownership of the ground. They oversee the work of those who erect the monuments. Few of these headstones are a danger because of failure in construction. With time, the ground in a cemetery shifts and subsides. This makes the headstone move out of vertical and in danger of falling.

Our cemeteries play an important role in our lives. They are the places where we remember our loved ones. They record our history as a people and as a nation.

Ninety million folk worldwide boast of Scots in their ancestry. The tangible evidence of that is on the lichen covered names marking the last resting place of ancestors across Scotland. Government and councils need to respect our cemeteries, their emotional and historic significance. Death, like taxes, is one of life's certainties. It should not be another profit centre for local government.

**John Black, 6 Woodhollow House,
Helensburgh**

the printed version to those who prefer folding and refolding their broadsheet.

I fear that the ramifications of your actions may be beyond your ken.

No more will I be able to whet my appetite for my copy by reading snippets over the shoulder of the passenger seated in front of me on the bus.

You have removed a safe haven for those in danger of becoming embroiled in family disputes as no longer can one hide behind the newspaper.

What else can swat wasps, or light wood burners better than a broadsheet?

Nevertheless The Oban Times has kept its readership informed of Argyll issues for the past 157 years, so here's to the next, despite it being compact!

**Alasdair McLelland,
Linlithgow.**

There are better ways to spend £4m on Mull and Ulva

I am certain that the people of Ulva and Mull

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



US President Donald Trump

eadar-nàiseanta a' leantainn a thaobh fhògarraich a' sireadh comraich agus dachannan ùra anns na dùthchannan as beartaiche den t-saoghal, agus tha sin na dhuilgheadas shònraichte anns an Roinn Eòrpa agus ann an Ameireagaidh.

Ged is e sealladh gun eireachdas a th' ann a bhith a' faicinn na h-Eadailt a' diùltadh fhògarraich a chaidh a theasairginn anns a' Mhuir Mheadhanach a leigeil air tìr, 's e am maslaidh as motha uile gu lèir clann a bhith gan sgaradh bhom pàrantan air crìochan nan Stàitean Aonaichte agus gan cròthadh ann an cèidsichean.

Thug dìteadh eadar-nàiseanta air Trump am poileasaidh seo atharrachadh ach tha fhios gun diol a' bhrùidealachd seo air a sheasamh feadh an t-saoghail, agus na dhùthaich fhèin.

B' e ceann-suidhe Ameireaganach eile a thuir

nach robh neach riamh cho àrd 's a bha e nuair a chromadh e gus cobhair a dhèanamh air leanabh, agus tha an òraid ainmeil eile aig Abraham Lincoln aig cladh Gettysburg san t-Samhain 1863 air a meas mar thè de phrìomh òraidean mhac an duine.

Ann an dà cheud seachdad is trì facal chuir Lincoln an cèill feallsanachd saorsa sluaigh Ameireagaidh agus an cuid creideis ann an co-ionannachd a' chinne-daonna.

Ach chan eil brìgh neo gliocas na h-òraid sin air buaidh sam bith a thoirt air cuid mhòr de shluagh Ameireagaidh mar a tha suidheachadh chòraichean thùsanach na dùthcha, agus dhaoine dubha anns na stàitean aig deas, a' dearbhadh. An e iomhaigh "dhùthaich na saorsa" an naidheachd as meallta a th' ann dha na daoine sin?

Abraham Lincoln famously said that no man was so tall as when he stoops to help a child. Donald Trump stooped as low as any modern leader and his brutal policy of wresting children from parents has been internationally and rightly condemned! Nobel peace prize material? Surely not!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk

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Fort William: 01397 707670

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Oban Times & Lochaber Times competitions

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of the above titles, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. The winner's information will be passed to the promoter to facilitate prize giving. We will not hold your personal details for longer than three months.

OT

DISTRICT NEWS

EASDALE

The Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland thanks everyone who supported the successful Dad's Army dance on Saturday June 2.

This includes everyone who helped decorate Seil Hall and the Seil Sound Victory Singers, Drew Connelly on the accordion and Bobby Harvey on the fiddle, who provided the entertainment. Thanks also to the local shops who sold tickets and the Oban businesses who gave discounts.

The event raised £1,400.

RAASAY

Isle of Raasay Distillery's visitor centre has been awarded five stars by VisitScotland.

Since opening in January, the centre has become a popular tourist destination for whisky pilgrims.

Visitors to the Raasay Distillery can experience first-hand the journey from converting a disused Victorian building to handcrafting the first Isle of Raasay single malt.

Raasay Distillery is independently owned by co-founders Alasdair Day and Bill Dobbie.

The pair worked with local architect Olli Blair, ABIR Architects, and Allen Associates to incorporate Borodale House, a disused Victorian villa, in the modern distillery design.

Alasdair said: 'We were delighted to receive a five-star rating from VisitScotland for our visitor centre. It reflects all the great work by our talented team.'

Chris Taylor, VisitScotland regional leadership director, said: 'It is commendable Isle of Raasay Distillery Visitor Centre has achieved five stars so soon after opening in January 2018.'

'Delivering a quality experience that not only meets but exceeds visitor expectations is crucial in making Scotland a must-visit, must-return destination.'

CRAOBH HAVEN

An 'upside down' house on the Lunga Estate near Craobh Haven has won a national design award.

The house, called Due West, was described by 2018 Saltire Society Housing Design Award judges as: 'An exquisite home set against a cliff

close to Craobh Haven that immerses the visitor in magnificent views over the west coast.

'Built off two rocks, it combines ambitious engineering with a beautiful and precise resolution of the building at every scale. Due West is an exceptional project in combining a real feeling for drama with the sense of being a much-loved home.'

Guest chairman, broadcaster Allan Little, said: 'I have been struck by how much effort is being made in the building of new houses in Scotland to blend contemporary technologies, materials and styles with the existing character of the environment. These are houses that above all look to the future but at the same time respect the historical and aesthetic context in which they are built.'



The award-winning house on the Lunga Estate.

OBAN

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) is investing £300,000 on external re-cladding of its eight family homes at Croft Avenue, Oban.

The timber-clad properties were built in the early 1950s and are known as 'the Swedish houses' because of their wooden architectural style.

The refurbishment work is being carried out by Stewart and Shields and will improve the thermal efficiency of the homes.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'The association is really pleased to be taking this work forward. These are excellent family homes in very high demand.'

'The work will improve the energy efficiency of the homes.'

This investment is a part of a £10.3 million capital investment programme in ACHA's housing stock throughout Argyll and Bute in 2018/19.

Carriage drivers enjoy Argyll visit

Nine Riding for the Disabled carriage drivers from across Britain gathered at the Argyll Driving Group near Oban this month for the start of this year's Scottish Driving Holiday.

Drives along quiet country roads were enjoyed every morning with drivers trying out different ponies each day.

The afternoons are normally spent honing skills in the outdoor arena but last year's winter had taken its toll on the surface so instead the group drove to grasslands near a beach. Some ventured down to the shallows, which brought smiles all round.

In the evenings the drivers enjoyed a ceilidh and a demonstration of driving by Jane Isaac driving her competition horse followed by a baked potato night and barbecue.

Patsy Muir-Simpson said: 'Fun was had by everyone involved and I thank everyone who helped make this holiday a very special one.'



The beach made a perfect place to drive their carriages.



Rockfield's principal teacher of Gaelic Rachael Deans, Gaelic teacher Keira Smith and P4-7G pupils being congratulated by Nicola Sturgeon.

OBAN

Rockfield Primary Gaelic classes were delighted to receive an invitation from the Scottish Book Trust to showcase their hard work at the First Minister's Reading Challenge event.

The event was held at The Hub in Edinburgh on Wednesday June 20 when Rachael Deans, principal teacher of Gaelic, accompanied by Gaelic pupils Rufus Hughes, P5, and Bethan Neil, P4, had a great time sharing their work with the 400-strong audience, as well as First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Rachael said: 'It was wonderful to be recognised for our year-long hard work and to be part of this celebration event.'

'More than 1,000 schools took part, but only 20 were invited to the showcase so it was a huge honour for us.'

The pupils presented Nicola Sturgeon with a Gaelic 'I love reading' bracelet which she wore and thanked them for during her speech.

Throughout the year, the Gaelic classes have been participating in the First Minister's Reading Challenge to help foster a love for reading for enjoyment.

In recognition of their hard work, 10 pupils

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Appeal for information

I have been suitably chastised for the piece I wrote two weeks ago calling for Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) to get its finger out and help a distressed resident who has complained about unkempt gardens at ACHA-owned properties.

If you read our letters page this week, you will see the missive from Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, accusing me of failing to check out 'all aspects of the story'.

He's got me bang on rights, guv.

As I wrote back then, the complaint was anonymous and did not provide addresses for the properties in question but I understand ACHA officers - I spoke to one of them last week - have striven to find out where in Oban these homes are located, without success, in an attempt to address the issue.

If the mystery correspondent would get back to me with more information, I'll happily pass it on and ACHA will respond to make the recalcitrant tenants sort out their gardens.

New hotel welcome

We reported last week the budget chain Travelodge has written to Argyll and Bute Council with a proposal for a joint development of a new hotel in Oban.

Travelodge said it had 'identified Oban as an up-and-coming tourism destination'. Really?

That is a little patronising as I think the company will find Oban has been a magnet for tourists for a very long time.

But, seriously, this would be good news for the town, coming on the back of the construction of a new Premier Inn, which is already under way.

However, I'm not sure the council should be getting into bed with a private sector hotel chain. If Travelodge wants to build a hotel here, it should buy a plot of land and pay for the development from its own resources.

The council is hard-pressed financially so I don't think it would be the best use of public money.

What do you think?

Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

from P4-7G were given the amazing opportunity to spend two fun-filled days in Edinburgh.

The group visited the new exhibition Growing up with Books at the Museum of Childhood, two Harry Potter shops, Camera Obscura - World of Illusions and saw a dinosaur at the National Museum of Scotland. They also had much 'spørs' at Pizza Hut and Nandos using the free ice machine.

BENDERLOCH

A new path in Benderloch giving children safe passage between Tralee and Lochnell Primary School was officially opened on Thursday.

Ardchattan Community Council chairwoman Margaret Adams said children walking or cycling to school from Tralee had to go over a narrow bridge, which was a 'danger' and there were incidents where children had had 'close shaves'.

The link path, which cost £40,000 with funding from Sustrans, now connects Tralee to the school, so the children do not have to go on a road.

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'This has been a long process. I am delighted it is happening.'



The youngsters declare their new play park open.

Lismore pupils say thanks for new play park

Lismore Primary School unveiled its new play park at its open day on Friday.

The parent council organised fundraising car washes, family ceilidhs and curry and quiz nights to replace the old play park, which had fallen into disrepair.

The children were consulted on what equipment they would like and decided on a basket swing, a bridge, a look-out tower with climbing ladders and poles, a sandpit and a pulley, a spiders web and a balance assault course.

Just after Christmas, the parent council had raised enough money to buy and build the play park on land rented from Argyll and Bute Council and Scotplay began construction in April.

The school was brightly decorated for the opening, with much of the year's work on display including floor books, art work and information boards. There was also a short film about the new play park and a display giving information about its journey from start to finish.

The school children presented an opening ceremony, giving a brief explanation of how the play park had been funded and thanked the sponsors and the parent council.

The nursery children then used an enormous pair of scissors to cut the ribbon across the gate and the children declared the play park open.

Visitors inspected the play park and were served strawberry cream scones and tea whilst the children played and tucked into ice creams.

The parent council and school said they were 'very grateful' to all the sponsors who donated so generously: Aggregate Industries (Glensanda), Awards for All Scotland, Scottish Sea Farms, Argyll and Bute Health and Wellbeing Network, Tesco Bags for Life and Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease.

A school spokesperson added: 'Thanks also go to Lismore Community Trust and the island community for supporting this fabulous resource which will be a wonderful place for the island's children and visiting children to play for many years to come.'

TREE

Tree's primary 4-7 Gaelic class went to Oban on June 13 for a trip described by Calin and Oilibhia.

'When we arrived we went to the swimming pool and there was a big yellow slide. We all really enjoyed it. After that, we went to Oban Bay restaurant for dinner.

'The next day we went to a Gaelic careers day and did lots of different workshops such as drama, sports, skills development and Book Bug. We learned about different careers that involve Gaelic such as acting, TV director, teaching, childcare, Forestry Commission and camera and sound operator.

'Afterwards we went to the soft play and had lots of fun. Some of us played hide.

'Then we went shopping and we all went to a sweet shop and bought gobstoppers. All the girls went to New Look; Oilibhia bought a T-shirt, Molly bought a hair band, Katie-Jane bought a handbag and Ceusaidh bought high heels. After a while we went to Wetherspoons for dinner and watched football and then we went to the cinema. We watched Sherlock Gnomes and we all enjoyed the film. We all loved the trip to Oban.'



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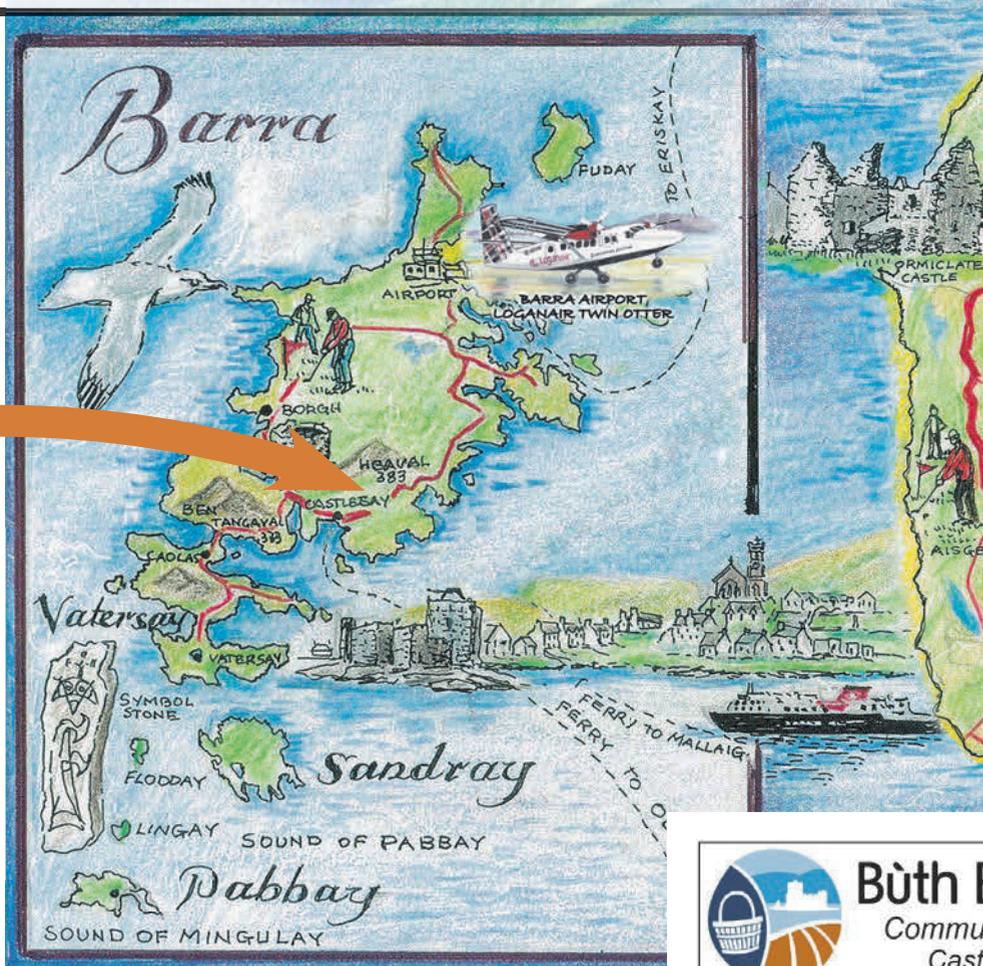
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CASTLEBAY



IT is called Castlebay because it's a bay with a castle - as the boat heads for the pier you pass Kisimul Castle, ancestral home of the Clan MacNeil, who in their day made the Game of Thrones look like a bunch of sissies.

Check out: Visit Dualchas Centre to learn all about the MacNeil and Barra history.

The wildlife on the island is phenomenal - the machair on both Barra and Vatersay is breathtaking. The statue and stained glass of Our Lady Star of the Sea are a moving testimony to the island's seafarers. The famous beach airstrip where the terminal building doubles as a café. Castlebay is the centre of island life: shops, fuel, a Co Op store, Post Office, and an ATM - make sure you buy some sweets at the Hebridean Toffee Factory. Plenty of accommodation and Barra is famous for big breakfasts and home baking. Car hire and bus routes begin and end at Pier.

Journey: The A888 circles most of the island and don't miss the small sign for Nasg Bhatarsaigh, (Vatersay) and cross the causeway to the island.

Hopscotch: As well as the Oban service there is the Barra to Eriskay ferry and over the causeway to South Uist where Lochboisdale has ferry link to Mallaig, and Oban in winter. Drive from Barra to the Butt of Lewis by a mix of ferries and causeways.



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OUTDOORS

Campaign is a huge hit

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce has announced its recent digital marketing campaign – Connect to your Adventure – to promote its destination tourism brand the Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK), has been a huge success with results far outstripping campaign projections and engagement from millions of people.

The campaign was match-funded with a grant from VisitScotland's Growth Fund and additional funding from the Highland LEADER Programme, together with support from local businesses.

Over the 12-month campaign, 60 online videos, inspiring potential visitors to 'connect to their adventure' in Lochaber, were watched for a total of 1,661,500 minutes; monthly Facebook video views averaged 764,034; monthly Facebook reach averaged 1,934,060 and monthly engagement of Facebook users averaged 51,722.

The 60 short online videos were produced throughout the campaign. They showcased Fort William and Lochaber as not only boasting outstanding outdoor activities but also stunning wildlife and fascinating heritage, together with top class food, drink and accommodation. The videos also highlighted just how accessible the OCUK is for all, with visitors from across the UK able to Connect to your Adventure via the Caledonian Sleeper.

The videos were shared on the OCUK's website and social media channels, and focused on Facebook and Instagram. In addition the Facebook videos could also be found using the interactive map on the Outdoor Capital website – <http://www.outdoorcapital.co.uk>.

With emphasis on user-generated content, visitors to the region were also encouraged to share their experiences on social media using the hashtag #myoutdoorcapital. Use of the hashtag also gave adventurers the opportunity to win special short breaks to Lochaber.

Project sows the seeds for young gardeners

There were plenty of green fingers on show at the Lochaber Rural Education Trust last week, with the final day of this year's Seed to Supper project.

The project, which is based at the trust's premises at the Lochaber Rural Complex at Torlundy, sees youngsters from Lochaber's primary schools taken through the whole process of growing vegetables from planting seeds to cropping and eating what they have grown.

Left, pupils of St Columba's School have a look at their flourishing potato crop.

Below left: pupils of Lundavra School listen intently to gardening instructions.

Below: Youngsters from Lundavra School examine some of the flower beds they planted.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos



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This week's walks



The new marina on Barra, at Castlebay, was visited by Kevin Stewart, below.

Minister praises new marina on Barra after courtesy visit

by Martin Laing
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



The new marina at Castlebay on Barra has been opened officially.

The facility is situated in the heart of Castlebay and is available for use by visiting yachts to improve access to marine leisure activities, tourism, for the use of the local water sports clubs and residents.

The latest pontoon infrastructure developments completed over the winter have provided 18 new berths, bringing the total number of berths for visiting yachts up to 32. All berths have access to power, fresh water, wifi and waste disposal.

The project will generate significant direct and indirect local spend to support a fragile, remote community and safeguard and generate employment which, in turn, will help strengthen the local economy.

Local government and housing minister Kevin Stewart and Calum Iain MacIver, director of develop-



ment at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, visited the Marina on June 15.

Mr Stewart said: 'I am delighted to see this terrific new facility and hear directly from the community about its importance for local people and the economy.'

'The Scottish Government is determined to improve the lives of local people by placing them at the heart of regenerating their communities and this new marina is just one example of that. Supported by £302,195 from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, it will be a fantastic local asset – not only creating additional health

and sport opportunities but also providing new economic opportunities to Barra and Vatersay Islands.'

Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus Bhatarsaidh (Barra and Vatersay Community) Ltd was delighted to welcome the minister. The capital investment by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, EMFF and the Scottish Government will enable Barra and Vatersay to play a full and active part in national marine strategy, in particular the 'string of pearls' formed by marinas extending from Castlebay in the south through Lochboisdale, Lochmaddy, Scalpay and Tarbert to Stornoway in the north.

Donald Crichton, chairman of sustainable development at the comhairle, added: 'This is yet another excellent example of community-driven projects in the marine sector. Marine visitor tourism is increasing and Castlebay will be a most welcome addition to facilities throughout the Outer Hebrides with considerable economic spin-offs.'

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted before hand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Saturday June 23 Fiarach, Tyndrum

The rocky summit of this Graham affords fine views of the many bigger hills in all directions. It is the highest point on a prominent wall-like dolerite dyke.

Start from the CP at Dalrigh, NN343291. Head SE on a track to cross the bridge over the River Fillan then turn SW alongside the railway for about 1Km. Cross the bridge over the railway and continue SW on the track to the forest boundary at NN331271. Head E up the hill, outside the forest fence.

At NN342269 the fence turns S, passes close W of Lochan Fiarach and may be followed directly to the summit of Fiarach 652m. It is worth walking a short distance SW from the summit for a view of the dolerite 'wall'. Descend ENE on undulating rough ground to a corner of the forest boundary fence. Cross the fence at NN352264 and continue down E on open or sparsely planted ground to reach the boundary fence of a mature evergreen plantation.

Pass around its N side to reach the head of a rough track at NN360264. Follow the track down NE to reach the WHW and follow this to cross the A82. Continue on the WHW to Kirkton Farm, past the St Fillan's Priory site, and back to Dalrigh.

Grade: M; Distance: 12km; Height to climb: 500m Map(s): LR50, EX364; Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 9.25am, or Glencoe village car park at 9.40am. Start at 10.30am. Leader: Sally Cameron 07810 464994.

Thursday June 28 Gleouraich and Spidean Mialach, Loch Quoich

These are readily achievable Munros, with good access on a stalkers' path. The route traverses the rims of no less than seven fine corries. Splendid views in a remote mountainous area. Start at NH028030 on the N side of

Loch Quoich, where limited parking is available. Following a good stalkers' path climb NW to Sron a'Chuilinn. The path continues N up a well-defined ridge, over a small top, 840m, then curves NE and climbs to the summit of Gleouraich, 1,035m. The ridge continues E with small changes in altitude to a Munro Top, Creag Coire na Fiar Bhealach, 1,006m, before dropping more steeply to the Fiar Bhealach, alt 730m at NH054048. Continue E along the ridge, rising steeply at first, to a false summit, 977m, then on to the summit of Spidean Mialach, 996m. Descend SW on a fair path to the confluence of several burns at NH049037. The path improves somewhat here and continues in the same direction to the public road, 300m SE of the starting point.

Grade: S; Distance: 12km; Height to climb: 1191m; Map(s): LR33, EX414; Meet at Fort William woollen mill at 8.40am, for start of walk at 10am. Leader: Stephen Mardon 01349 865881 or 07522 956789.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club. If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Sunday June 24

Sgurr Mor, Sgurr an Fhuarain, Loch Arkaig

This hill is situated in very remote country. From the car park near Strachan, take the track to Glendessary and then go north on the path to the high point. The path goes NE, so leave the path to go north into Glen Kingie and cross the river (not always easy).

Join the path on the north side of the river and take it west and then NNE on to the SW ridge of Sgurr Beag. Continue over Sgurr Beag, then down steeply to the col and up steeply to the summit of Sgurr Mor. To return, continue east on the path and then SE to the col below Sgurr an Fhuarain, which may be climbed from here.

Descend steeply on grassy slopes to cross the river Kingie and rejoin the outward route.

Distance: 22km; ascent: 1,300m. Suggested by Anne Scoular and John Burton; coordinator: Andrew Gilbert.

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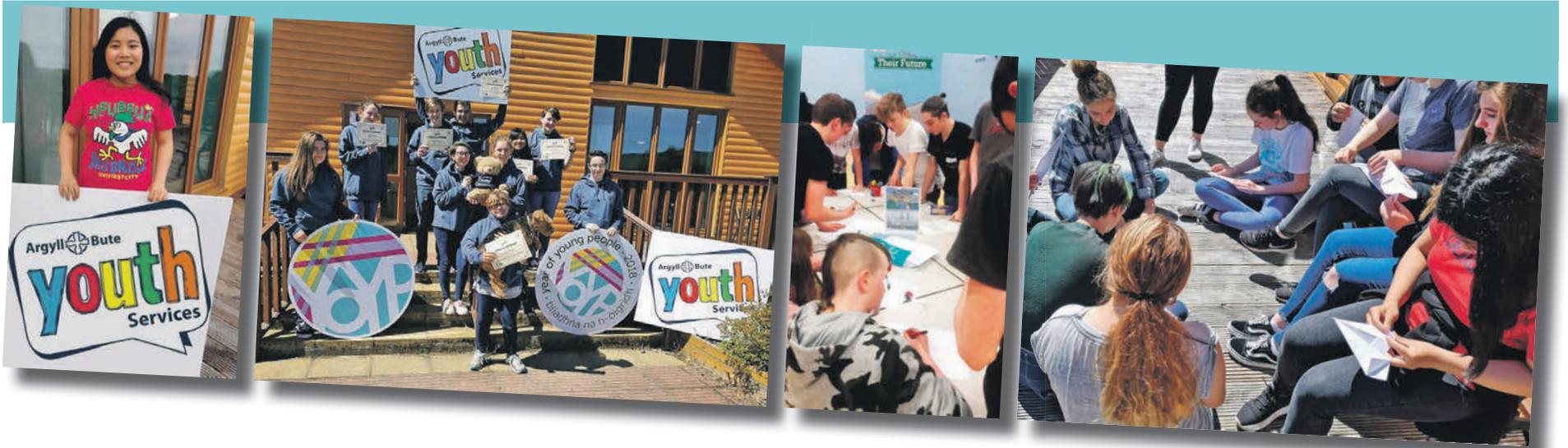


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in Argyll and the Highlands

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Scotland: the first country in the world to dedicate a full year to celebrating young people.

To inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally’.

If you want to know what the future looks like, look around you, because young people are the future.

The quality of that future will depend on the quality of those young people, how healthy they are both physically and mentally; the experiences they have as

they grown into adulthood based on the opportunities they have right now in education, culture, sport and the workplace and their inclusion in society as a whole.

That is why the Year of Young People 2018 is so important. It celebrates young people and

their achievements and offers a wide range of events to help open their eyes to many new experiences.

As the Year of Young People continues to unfold, keep up to date with all that is happening here in the West Highlands and islands through the pages of our newspapers.



'This is an opportunity to shine a light on the fantastic contribution young people make to life in Scotland.'

'The Year of Young People will give young people a new platform and new opportunities for their voices to be heard in all parts of our society and hopefully help to fos-

ter a better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations.'

'The talents of our young people span the length and breadth of the country - evident in the great programme they have helped to put together. I want to thank all of the partners involved in

supporting this initiative, who have helped to put together what I am sure will be a wonderful celebration of young people in 2018.'

Pictured: Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon at the launch of the Year of Young People 2018 with pupils from Caol



The aims of the Year of Young People 2018 - encouraging young people to become leaders within their communities and beyond, and supporting them to benefit from new opportunities, are key to our values and our collaboration with Young Scot and the Scottish Youth Parliament. We are delighted to support YOYP2018 and look forward to the coming year.'

Jackie Brock, chief executive, Children in Scotland.



'We have so much to be proud of in Argyll and Bute and our young people are a huge part of that. Our young people matter - what they do makes a difference to life in Argyll and Bute. They have a key role to play in making Argyll and Bute a really great place to live, learn, work and visit.'

**Councillor Aileen Morton
Leader of Argyll and Bute Council.**



'As we celebrate the Year of Young People this year, I encourage all to participate in this extremely worthwhile initiative. I am sure that there will be lots of events that we can get involved in and that working with Young People will ensure a renewed sense of vim and vigour!'

**Councillor Andrew Baxter
who chairs the Lochaber
Committee, Highland
Council.**



a' comharrachadh 50 bliadhna de thaic agus leasachadh airson litreachas na Gàidhlig

celebrating 50 years of support and promotion of Gaelic literature

www.gaelicbooks.org

Argyll & Bute Council

This has been designated 'Year of Young People' by the Scottish Government and Scotland is the first country to recognise and celebrate the contributions and achievements of young people in this way. The aim is to inspire Scotland through its young people.....celebrate their achievements, value their contribution to communities and create new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally



In honour of Year of Young People 2018 Youth Services are going to focus on what young people have told us are the reasons they love living and growing up in Argyll and Bute! Together with young people from across the authority, we've co-produced an exciting calendar of events, projects and experiences that reflect and celebrate the top 10 pluses to being a young person in Argyll and Bute.

Preparation for YOYP18 begun by consulting

with young people involved in young leader training in early June 2017. With their input we decided on the theme and a rough plan. We then developed a survey which was tested with a group of young people in Helensburgh and Lomond as part of a 'Have Your Say' event, before being rolled out across Argyll and Bute.

In total 1055 young people took part informing us of the top 10 reasons they love living and growing up in Argyll and Bute.

Safe, Outdoors, Easy to stay in touch, Nature, Quiet and Peaceful, Beautiful, Freedom, Sport/ recreation, Opportunities and Easy to get involved.

Youth Services have developed this programme of events for 2018 with these in mind, while also keeping with the six key national themes. Youth Services will use hashtags# to enable young people to link their activities to the plan, update in real time and share their involvement on social media.

EVENT DIARY

29th June, Campbeltown
The Big Night Out
area wide dance.

2nd August
Cyber Event

two day Residential workshop looking at emerging technology.

Youth Exchange

Bute, Campbeltown and Helensburgh take part in an exchange programme with Germany

17th to 21st September
Duke of Edinburgh Event

National YOYP event.

6th December, Campbeltown
YS Fest

Film Festival which will be a lasting legacy for YOYP2018 in A&B.

Lots more events/activities planned. Check with your local Youth Worker for more details



year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018

Celebrating Argyll and Bute as the best place for young people to live and grow up.









project
TRUST since 1967

Celebrating 50 years of young people volunteering overseas

Now in its 50th anniversary year, educational charity Project Trust is celebrating the incredible work done by its Volunteers overseas.

Every year, up to 300 school leavers embark on a journey that starts with Selection and Training at Project Trust's headquarters on the Hebridean Isle of Coll. They then complete an eight- or 12-month placement in teaching, youth & social care, or outdoor education, in one of 20 countries across Africa,

Asia and Latin America.

Last year, Project Trust Volunteers taught and supported over 40,000 children, young people and adults around the world, developing a whole range of skills in the process. One of these Volunteers was Jamie Porter from Helensburgh, who spent a year living and working in Botswana at Bana ba Metsi, a school which supports boys and young men from disadvantaged backgrounds. As a Volunteer, Jamie was able to teach

the boys practical skills like construction and brick-making, as well as taking full responsibility for coordinating extra-curricular activities such as sport, swimming and art.

Reflecting on his time in Botswana, Jamie says: "Most of our students came from troubled backgrounds of abuse, crime and homelessness, so it was imperative to encourage them to take their last chance at education seriously, which I worked hard to do throughout the



year. I was able to show them the power of a good education, and the opportunities it could unlock for them."

As well as gaining valuable skills in leadership, self-confidence and resilience, Volunteers who go overseas with Project Trust also have the opportunity to gain a Diploma in International Volunteering, which is recognised by UCAS.

Jamie is now studying Civil Engineering at the University of Edinburgh, but his time with Project Trust continues to have an impact on him. "My year with Project Trust was utterly life-changing. While I knew I would never change the world, knowing that I had potentially helped give even a few of my students better prospects, not just educationally

but also socially, was the best feeling ever. I will always cherish the friends I have made and the things I have learnt along the way, and it was Project Trust that gave me the opportunity to achieve this."

Applications are now open for all students finishing school in 2019 - find out more and sign up at www.projecttrust.org.uk.



"IN A TIME OF CULTURAL IGNORANCE AND RISING HATE, I THINK IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO SEE MORE OF THE WORLD."

Innes | Project Trust Volunteer in Honduras

What a Difference a Year makes...

Are you leaving school next summer? Spending up to 12 months overseas with Project Trust gives you the chance to **CHALLENGE** yourself, **LEARN** about the world and be a **POSITIVE** force within it.

Develop Skills for Life and Work:

- Leadership
- Awareness
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- Communication & Collaboration
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Get more info & apply online projecttrust.org.uk

Project Trust is registered as a Charity in Scotland No. SC025668

Recognised by UCAS

Volunteering in **AFRICA, ASIA, OCEANIA, LATIN AMERICA** or **THE CARIBBEAN** gives you the opportunity to gain a **DIPLOMA** in **INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING**.

- Bursary support available
- Mentoring scheme in place

project
TRUST since 1967

50
Years of
Global Volunteering

New Talent flourishes at Mount Stuart Gardens



With the world's largest private art collection, Mount Stuart Trust has a worldwide reputation for teaching and research in the arts, working with Cambridge, Oxford and Harvard Universities.

'We are working now to build the same reputation for the garden and designed landscape and we have an aspiration to develop a full

programme of horticultural higher education and graduate training,' says Don Murray, Head of Horticulture at Mount Stuart. The Trust



is working with Argyll College UHI, a local education provider and an academic partner

of the University of the Highlands and Islands. Don continues 'We enjoy working with University

of the Highlands and Islands and local partner Argyll College UHI, because of our island setting and the creative way they can deal with the challenges this presents.'

The gardens are home to a spectacular living collection, with native and exotic flora, important botanical species and many national champion trees attracting over 45,000 visitors every year. First laid out by the 2nd Earl of Bute in the 18th century, the gardens were considerably expanded by the 3rd Earl, who is possibly better remembered as a prime minister and a the founder of Kew Gardens.

Don says 'Education and learning is one of the key objectives of the trust; our motto is Purpose, People, Place, so the Modern Apprenticeship programme is a natural development. We are committed to continual development of the whole team and we are passionate about applying modern day best-practice to this amazing heritage environment.'

Nineteen year old Heidi McMillan, David Swan and Scott Clark, both 16, are the three lucky apprentices who will spend the next 18 months with the team at Mount Stuart. David and Scott both grew up on the island, while Heidi recently relocated to Bute with her family.

Scott, whose apprenticeship is funded with a training allowance by the Finnis Scott Foundation, wanted to join the army on leaving school until a week's work experience with local company Bute Produce changed his mind and sowed the seeds of a career in horticulture. Scott says, 'I really enjoyed working outside and was delighted when this Modern Apprenticeship was advertised as it meant that I could get a good qualification whilst still earning a wage.'

You can find out more about Mount Stuart House and Gardens at www.mountstuart.com and if you are interested in Modern Apprenticeships you can visit www.argylluhi.ac.uk/study-with-us/modern-apprenticeship/

DYW

ARGYLL

Developing the Young Workforce

Bridging the gap between education and the world of work.



Our aim is to develop Scotland's young workforce by providing young people with learning which is directly relevant to getting a job, benefiting individuals and improving the economy through increased youth employment.

Are you an employer or a student and want to know more?

Visit www.dywargyll.com

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ArgyllDYW

An education as unique as you are

There are as many reasons for independent education as there are children; each one is unique.

It remains one of the most important decisions a family makes, whether young people make the move out of the state and into the private education sector.

In Scotland only 4.1 per cent of pupils nationwide are in private education as day or boarding pupils. There are just fewer than 30,000 such pupils in 73 independent schools nationwide.

Scotland has 19 mainstream boarding schools with 3,072 pupils and nearly half, 46.5 per cent, are from overseas. That is the equivalent to the Scottish economy of more than £30m in exports. Within the senior independent schools 93 per cent of pupils who sat Highers passed

At least £349 million is given annually in fee assistance in the independent education sector in Scotland; with just under 27 per cent of all pupils receiving some form of assistance.



Dollar Academy

We have a very simple ethos at Dollar: if you work hard you can achieve excellence, if you get involved you will make the most of the opportunities available, and if you are kind we will have a stronger and better community that works well for everyone.

In our Prep, Junior and Senior Schools, the quality of teaching ensures that children are motivated, inspired and engaged in their learning. They study the Scottish curriculum and benefit from one of the widest choices of Highers in Scotland, an education that allows them to develop individual strengths and interests. Year after year, Dollar pupils achieve outstanding results.

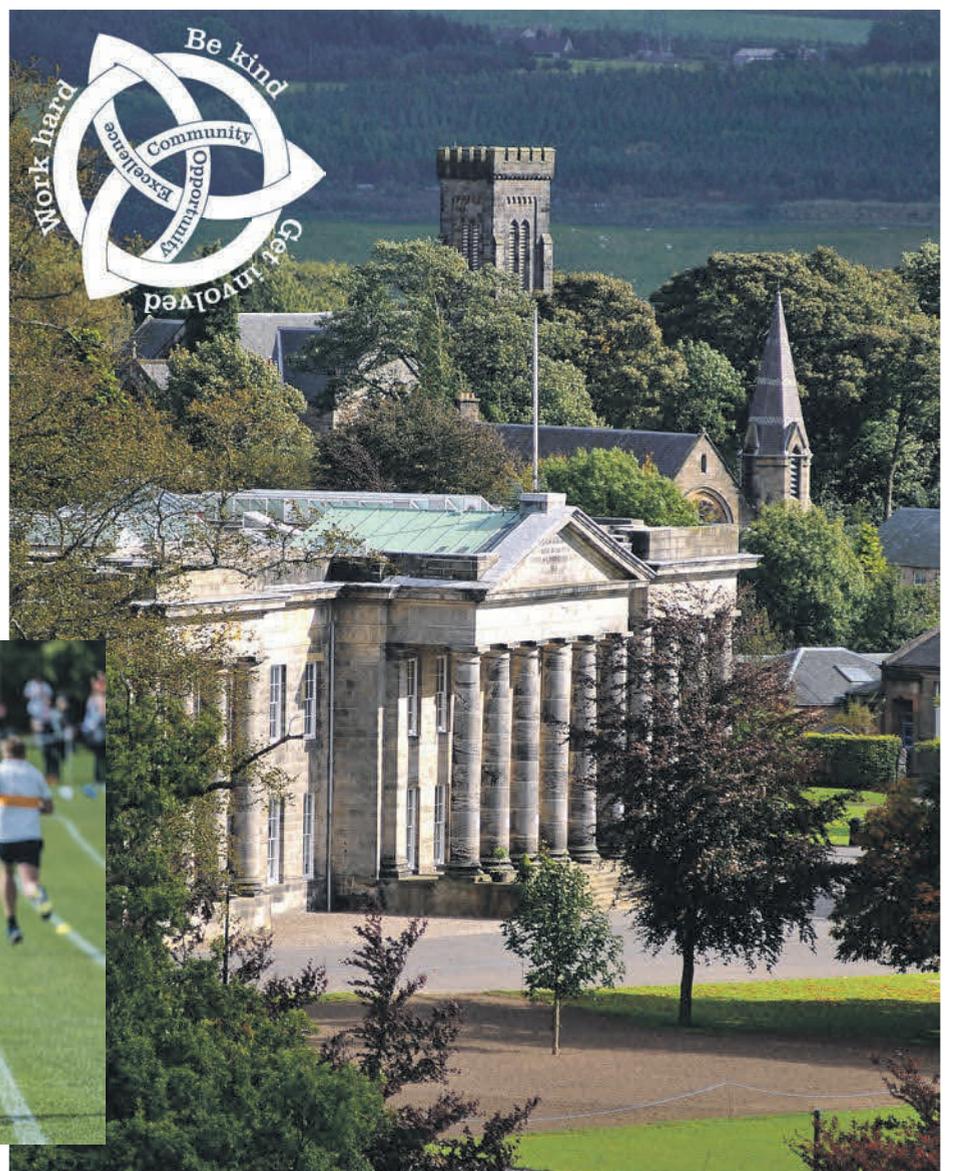
While education begins in the classroom, it by no means ends there. Our 1200-strong pupil community thrive on the variety and extent of co-curricular activities on offer. From sport and the arts to academic clubs and volunteering, children are encouraged to em-

brace opportunities with confidence and discover their capabilities. We have the teaching talent to support those wanting to pursue activities to a high level, and do much to stimulate participation.

Our three family-style boarding houses are home to 90 boys and girls. A warm welcome and shared experiences bring our boarders together. Care and support comes by way of our dedicated and highly-experienced houseparents, staff and

tutors. With houses located on the edge of our 70-acre campus, boarders can take advantage of outstanding sport and recreational facilities in the evenings and at weekends. And the several hundred pupils living locally ensure that friendships extend well beyond the houses.

Visit the Dollar Academy Open Day on Saturday 8 September from 10am to 1pm, or get in touch to arrange a visit. T: 01259 742511.



More than good grades

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS GUIDE 2018
SCOTTISH INDEPENDENT SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR



Open Day: Saturday 8 September, 2018; 10am-1pm

Arrange a visit or find out more:

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Co-educational day, weekly and full boarding; 5 to 18 years
Means-tested bursaries available

Dollar FK14 7DU www.dollaracademy.org.uk



DOLLAR
ACADEMY

The Governors of Dollar Academy Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC009888

Think you know Argyll College UHI? Think again #thinkArgyll

Did you know that last year over 1600 students studied with us in our network of 10 learning centres located throughout Argyll?

We offer 25 full time Further Education programmes, 13 HNC, 8 HND courses in subjects as varied as Outdoor Adventure Sport, Art & Design and Agriculture! We have lots of ways for you to study - on the job training with an SVQ or

Modern Apprenticeship; full-time in college or part time to fit around your other commitments.

As one of the 13 partner institutions of the University of the Highlands and Islands we can also offer access to over 60 Undergraduate and 5 Postgraduate courses from right here in Argyll.

For professionals we also offer a range of business training including First Aid, Food Hygiene and

Personal Licence Holder courses. So, whether you want to progress your education or career we're right on your doorstep and we're here to help you to learn, achieve and advance. Think you know us? Think again #thinkArgyll.

Visit www.argyllcollege.ac.uk today to view our great range of courses, find information on your local learning centre and get inspired!



Get into Business, Administration or Computing

Would you like to get back into education but don't know where to start?

Do you want to improve your career prospectus but don't know how?

Argyll College UHI has an innovative new 1 year course which allows you to tailor-make your course to suit your goals and interests, or learn a broad range of

skills and get a taste of various subjects. This is a great way to try out different things and is perfect if you've not decided on what your career will be.

With no formal entry requirements, you can focus on Business, Administration or Computing units or mix and match to make your perfect qualification. Complete the course you'll be guaranteed an

interview for a relevant HNC this time next year.

Study full time and you may qualify for a bursary on top of your fee-waiver, or you can study part-time and fund your studies with either a fee waiver or Individual Training Allowance (ITA). Search online for My World of Work for more ITA information.

Find our more and apply online now at www.argyllcollege.ac.uk



Think you know us? Think again! #thinkArgyll



**Beauty, Care & Make Up - Health & Social Care - Business & Computing
The Humanities - Sport, Fitness & Maritime - Land Based Industries
Science, Technology, Engineering & Construction - Creative Industries
Catering & Hospitality - Education**

**We're now accepting applications for
courses starting in September 2018.
Apply online to secure your place.**



**University of the
Highlands and Islands
Argyll College**

www.argyllcollege.ac.uk

Trèanadh Air Leth sna Meadhanan leis a' Ghàidhlig san Eilean Sgitheanach

Tha Sabhal Mòr Ostaig air a bhith a' tairgsinn cùrsaichean trèanaidh anns na meadhanan Gàidhlig a tha air a bhith air leth soirbheachail thairis air ioma bliadhna. Tha cruth a chùrsa seo agus an trèanadh aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig air co-throm a thoirt do dhaoine a dhol an sàs ann an iomadh dreuchd eadar-dhealaichte anns na meadhanan agus tha còrr is 75% de dhaoine a rinn a chùrsa seo a nis a' dèanamh am beò-shlàint anns a'

ghnìomhachas. Chaidh an cùrsa seo a dhealbh airson luchd-trèanaidh ullachadh airson saoghal craolaidh an latha an-diugh. Tha oileanaich air an trèanadh ann an suidheachadh Gàidhlig agus ann an dòighean a' ghnìomhachais, a' toirt dhai-bh an cothrom teisteanas aig àrd-ìre a chosnadh agus aig an aon àm eòlas fhaighinn air dreuchdan eadar-dhealaichte anns na meadhanan. Tha oileanaich a faighinn bogadh anns

na sgìlean bunaitich a tha deatamach airson a bhith ag obair anns na meadhanan fhad 's a tha iad cuideachd a' leasachadh nan sgìlean cànan aca. As dèidh 30 seachdainean aig a' Cholaiste cuiridh oileanaich seachad 10 mìosan a' trèanadh anns a' ghnìomhachas. Ma tha sibh ag iarraidh foirm-iarrtais airson an Dioplòma anns na Meadhanan Gàidhlig cuiribh post-d gu: cni@smo.uhi.ac.uk no fòn 01471 888336.

Gaelic Language offers Unique Media Training in Scenic Skye

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has been successfully involved in providing training courses for the Gaelic media industry for a number of years. The structure of the courses and the practical training provided at the College has allowed students to enter a wide range of professions in the Gaelic media. The Diploma has a very high employment rate with over 75% of those

achieving the award gaining employment within the media industry. The Diploma is designed to equip individuals for employment in the Gaelic media, enabling them to gain an advanced quality award with production and technical skills, which will allow entry to a range of jobs in the broadcast industry. The course will be of-

fered on a full-time basis. The first period (30 weeks) will be College based and following this, trainees will spend a further 10 months on work placement with an established broadcaster or independent production company. If you would like an application form for the Diploma in Gaelic Media course, please e-mail: cni@smo.uhi.ac.uk or phone 01471





SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

DIOPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

IARRTASAN FOSGAILTE AIRSON 2018-2020

Sàr chùrsa a' tairgsinn chothroman ionnsachaidh ann an iomadh cuspair - sgìlean camara, fuaim, solais agus gearradh; riochdachadh is stiùireadh telebhisein; riochdachadh rèidio; naidheachdas, dràma agus spòrs.

Tha an dàrna bliadhna ga cur seachad a' trèanadh fad deich mìosan anns an àite-obrach.

“Chan eil cùrsa cho prìseil coltach ris ann an Alba, a bheir dhut am fiosrachadh agus an tuigse a' dh'fheumas thu airson dreuchd anns na meadhanan.”

Airson foirm-iarrtais cuiribh fios gu:
 01471 888336
cni.smo@uhi.ac.uk
WWW.SMO.UHI.AC.UK



Healthy, happy + safe

Making sure young people have the chance to lead healthy, active lives and understand the importance of mental health and resilience is one of the remits of Year of Young People 2018

Young people are now so media savvy that they are just as likely to turn to a website as a parent, friend or teacher for information – so make sure the site is a good quality, accurate one.



www.cool2talk.org

Is an incredible resource, full of advice on health, services of all kinds for young people and has a question and answer service.

It is confidential and anonymous; no one is asked for personal information. If you give information that identifies you and if you or someone else is at risk of harm the site may have to share this information in order to keep young people safe; this is only done if there was real concern for immediate safety.

All questions will be answered and posted back on the site within 24 hours

· In an emergency please call 999, or if you need an immediate response please call the Samaritans on 116123

Young people aged 12-26 can access cool2talk in Argyll and Bute. Cool2talk is an online service which provides free, anonymous and confidential health information for young people. They can post a question to the site and receive a bespoke answer, which is posted back on the site for everyone to learn from, within 24 hours/365 days per year. It is a safe place for young people to ask questions about any aspect of health and receive an evidence informed, responsible and person centred answer.

Young people can also access up to four sessions of online

counselling from a trained counsellor based in NHS Tayside. The sessions take place on Mondays and Wednesdays between 8-9pm every week. Young people just sign up and receive up to 45 minutes of confidential counselling, on a first come first served basis. If they require more support, the counsellor will encourage them to access longer term services or support.

Anyone can access the information on the website which lists local and national services for support by going to: www.cool2talk.org - there is no referral service, just go to the website.



Argyll & Bute Sexual Health

www.ab-wish.org/young-people

This is Argyll and Bute's website for happy, safe and healthy relationships and sexual health. This site is designed for people more than 13-years-old.

This site contains a wide range of information including where to find local services, safer sex, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and lots more.



www.one2one.cool2talk.org/

The 121 site is an on-line chat service with a trained counsellor who will be here between 8pm and 9pm. You can get 30-50 minutes for each session using secure instant messaging. This is a safe space to chat confidentially and anonymously about any worries you may have and know someone will listen and not judge.

Helping teenagers who want to slim down

SLIMMING World launched its young members programme in January 2006 and each year helps over 10,000 young members, with their families, to live healthier lives.

It's no secret that young people are eating less healthily, have a less active lifestyle and are suffering from weight-related problems like diabetes at a much earlier age.

It is an incredibly sensitive area, and it's one where most organisations have been reluctant to offer solutions.

To help young people in the very best way it can Slimming World has launched Free2Go - a specially devised healthy eating plan, which focuses on the power of Free Food and Healthy Extras and encourages the

step-by-step reduction of less healthy foods like burgers, chocolate and confectionary.

Slimming World is the first and only weight loss organisation to offer real, practical help for the young, between the ages of 11-15 who can attend Slimming World for free*.

The focus for young members is well and truly on healthy eating - not weight loss. There is absolutely no pressure to lose weight - just lots of praise as they take on board healthy lifestyle changes. Every young member also receives an easy-to-follow booklet as part of their new member pack.

The Free2Go eating plan is super-simple - there's no counting, no measuring and no

worrying; the aim is to help them make positive lifestyle changes that fit with their school-life, home-life and social-life.

*Children must be accompanied by their parent/guardian or family member who has responsibility for their

meals/eating habits at home. If the adult is already a member of Slimming World, there's no extra charge. If the accompanying adult is not a member a reduced weekly fee of £3.95/€7.50 is charged plus joining fee for help and advice.

Because the 11-15s service involves the adult responsible for the teenager's eating, Slimming World has found that the plan also helps parents make small but important adjustments to the way they shop and cook for the family.

Join a Slimming World group today to get free support for your loved ones. Contact Oban - Gillian 07796 040 803 or Campbeltown/Lochgilthead - Rhona 07880 878 906 or see the Slimming World webpage.



Mid Argyll Youth Development Services Providing Information and Accessible Youth Friendly Services

Registered Charity: SC022931

MAYDS is a charity working with and supporting children and young people 0-26 years old. We are open full-time to provide a wide and varied range of recreational, educational and tailor made support services including:-

- Clubs, activities and sports
- Young carers support services
- Young parents support services
- Free trips and outings
- Family support
- Drug and Alcohol Education and support
- Individual Support and wellbeing sessions
- Employment support and training
- Flexible learning plans and alternate curriculum certificates
- Volunteer programs
- Tenancy Support
- Community Events



MAYDS celebrating Year of the Young People 2018

Who cares for kids who care?



There are lots of organisations that can help if you are a young carer or young adult carer.

You will hear more about children in care than children who have to care.

Even primary school children help to hold homes together, looking after a member of their family not just young adults. More care for these young people themselves is now being planned to support them.

A great place to find out about help is the brilliant Young Scot page.

See www.youngscot.org/young-carers or visit www.carers.org or www.carersuk.org/scotland

Carers Trust's local Network Partners are carers' services across the UK, of-

fering information, advice, practical support and/or care in the home.

Across the West Highlands and islands groups meet to help young carers get much-needed support, a chance to have time to enjoy all kinds of activities and socialise.

The Scottish Government has developed a new package of benefits and support for young carers in Scotland - which includes a new Young Carer Grant.

Young carers aged 16-18 in Scotland who do not currently qualify for the Carer's Allowance, may be eligible for a new £300 annual payment to

help them access life opportunities that are the norm for other young people. The Young Carer Grant will be paid from autumn 2019.

All recipients of the Young Carer Grant will also be eligible for free concessionary bus travel in Scotland; this will begin in 2020-2021.

Young Scot and the Scottish Government will also be working with young people in Scotland who have caring responsibilities, to help with non-cash benefits, entitlements and rewards for young carers aged 11-18. These will become available through the Young Scot National

Entitlement Card and Young Scot card from April 2019.

Alongside wider Scottish Government support for young carers, it is intended that the grant helps young carers to look after their own health and well-being, improve their quality of life and reduce any negative impact of caring; participate fully in society and, if they choose, engage in training, education and employment opportunities, as well as social and leisure, and have an increased sense of control and empowerment over their lives. The grant will be paid on an entitlement rather than discretionary basis.

- There are 49,000 young carers aged 16 - 24; some even younger
- More than 7,000 young people are providing more than 35 hours a week of care to someone.
- Fewer than 4,000 of those young people claimed carer's allowance
- Find out how to apply for carer's allowance, hear stories from other young people on their experience of being a carer and get loads of info on caring for someone on the Young Scot website for young people in Scotland.

Celebrating the best



The Year of Young People 2018 began by honouring some great achievements in Argyl and Bute

A total of 24 finalists attended the 2018 Argyl and Bute Youth Awards held earlier this year. The winners were as follows:

Duke of Edinburgh Outstanding Achievement Award:

Ellen Kennedy, Mull

In 2012 Ellen began her DoFE Award journey at Tobermory High School on Mull. She faced significant challenges which included having Additional Support Needs.

Ellen completed her Bronze, Silver and Gold awards over a five year period. Ellen now attends Argyl College in Oban, it takes her two ferries, a bus and a taxi just to get to college each day. Ellen's DoFE involvement continues as an ambassador for the award at Tobermory High School where she is an inspiration to all.

Unsung Hero Award:

Keira Rutherford, Rothesay

Kiera has dedicated her time to raising money

for good causes. Over the last seven years Keira has raised over £10,000 for charities including Erskine, the British Heart Foundation and Yorkhill Children's Charity as well as various local charities.

Youth Entrepreneur Award:

Chris Berrall, Helensburgh and Lomond

Chris started a traineeship at Centre 81 in 2016 and worked on running the 40 bed hostel based within the centre. When his placement ended he knew the loss of his role would severely impact on the small team at the centre and so chose to volunteer five days a week, investing over 500 hours over a six month period.

Youth Volunteering Award:

Alexander Anderson, Mull

Whilst currently studying for his Highers, Alexander also has the responsibility of being a Senior Prefect and

is actively involved in the life of the school, attending Prefect meetings, School Council Meetings and he is a keen sportsman. Alongside school, Alexander also juggles his duties as a Volunteer Lifeboat Crew Member with the RNLI. As the youngest member at 17, he has impressed his fellow crew members with the effort and commitment he puts in to any task he is given, becoming a highly respected member of the crew in the short time he has been there.

Health and Wellbeing:

Ciaran MacKenzie, Helensburgh

After being inspired to sign up at school, Ciaran donated bone marrow to help save a complete stranger's life, which involved a lot of medical tests and travelling down to London. Since his operation he has helped raise awareness of the Anthony Nolan Trust, running the Great North Run in aid of the charity and going back to his old school

Hermitage Academy to talk to pupils.

Youth Environment Award:

HELP community Taskforce, Dunoon

HELP Community Taskforce is a group of young people who learn new skills, gain work experience and qualifications, while making environmental improvements within their local community.

Citizenship Award:

Jamie Murray MSYP, Rothesay

Jamie has been a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) for three years after being re-elected for a second term. He was one of two MSYP's in the whole of Scotland chosen to attend the 8th Commonwealth Youth Parliament sitting in Victoria, British Columbia. Jamie was elected as a trustee of the SYP board and he won an SYP award for Communicator of the Year due to his work as head of the Creative Communications Team.

Youth Arts Award:

Into the Light - Beth Qualter and Holly Smith, Mid Argyl

Holly and Beth were frustrated that there was nowhere for young artists in Argyl to exhibit their work. They decided to do something about this, and organised Into the Light, an exhibition for artists under 25, living in Argyl and Bute. They successfully ran the show in some farm buildings near Lochgilphead in September 2017. To raise funds they asked established artists to contribute postcards for a lucky dip. To engage younger artists they ran workshops in local primary schools.

Sporting Award:

Cliona and Nuala McCheyne, Dunoon

At 16 Cliona is the current Scottish under 17's Junior Hill Running League Champion, and is the youngest girl to have climbed all of Scotland's 282 Munros, which she completed at age 10 with her sister.

Cliona has been a member of Inverclyde Athletic Club for 5 years. In 2017 she reached the under 17's finals of the 1,500m at the West of Scotland Championships, the Scottish Athletics Association Championships and the Scottish Schools Championships.

Councillor Aileen Morton, who leads Argyl and Bute Council said at the awards ceremony: 'We have so much to be proud of in Argyl and Bute and our young people are a huge part of that. That's why it's a real pleasure to be able to recognise the contribution that they make to life in our communities through the Argyl and Bute Awards 2018.'

'These awards are much more than a way of highlighting the many achievements and successes of Argyl and Bute's young people. They tell our young people that they matter - that what they do makes a difference to life in Argyl and Bute.'

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Developing careers for young people

The best way to keep and grow our communities is through our young people and they need good quality jobs

DEVELOPING the Young Workforce (DYW), is a Scottish Government Youth Employment strategy, to reduce youth unemployment by 40 per cent by 2021, in response to the recommendations in the Wood

Commission report. There are 21 regional DYW groups in Scotland, leading and driving the change in employers' engagement with schools and colleges. DYW West Highland is hosted by Lochaber Chamber of

Commerce, based in Fort William. It works collaboratively with The Highland Council, Skills Development Scotland, Partner Agencies, Secondary Schools and Colleges (West Highland College UHI and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig).

By working together, they can help employers shape the future workforce of the West Highlands and help better prepare young people for the world of work. The DYW team covers Lochaber, Skye and Wester

Ross – where it aims to expand opportunities to young people, through employer-led initiatives, so that they gain valuable workplace skills and further education opportunities, making them more attractive to employers.

Food and drink on Skye



The Skye Food and Drink Festival is a celebration of food and drink from across Skye and the surrounding regions. There were many exciting opportunities to taste and buy local produce and see cookery demonstrations, as well as experience the live music throughout the two-day festival.

As part of the delivery, the Skye Food and Drink Festival team asked if DYW West Highland could support the event which would provide Portree High School pupils interested in the hospitality sector, with some hospitality and event experience.

The team of four pupils, built upon their employability skills such as team work, problem solving, communication skills and gained a greater understanding of how events like this are delivered.

Festival organiser, Pam Allen, said: 'The pupils have been of immense use helping to set up various events,

guiding visitors and supporting stall holders making sure that everything ran without any hitches.'

Lesley Hellon, programme coordinator at Developing the Young Workforce West Highland commented: 'The two-day event was a huge success, not only for the pupils of Portree High School, but for all the stall holders and visitors to sample the wares of all the amazing local businesses, something that we can all be proud of.'

'Congratulations to the pupils on receiving great feedback in recognition of their hard work. Also, a massive thank you to the team at The Skye Food and Drink Festival for providing this wonderful opportunity.'

Last year 130 Portree High School pupils also got the opportunity to see The Masterchef: The Professionals winner, Garry MacLean, at The Skye Food and Drink Festival.

Lochaber study leave boost for job seekers



Study leave is the time of year when numerous students are studying for exams but it can also be a good opportunity for pupils to visit the local college or businesses to gain exposure to a workplace environment and learn numerous skills, helping to make the transition from education to employment easier.

Seven S4 Lochaber High School students took advantage of such an opportunity and successfully completed a DYW WH month long programme of activities which would help to equip them with CV writing and interview skills, First Aid knowledge and information about local, available opportunities.

Activities included employability workshops where pupils learned CV and cover letter writing techniques, workplace tours, a certified First Aid course and employer led mock-interviews. Students enjoyed workplace tours of Liberty Smelter, Marine Harvest and the Isles of Glencoe

Hotel where they learned about available training opportunities and participated in activities that taught them the value of good teamwork, communication and leadership.

Additionally, pupils were also given the option to visit the local college and choose what course classes they would like to sit in on and shadow which is a fantastic opportunity for young people considering higher education after their high school years.

As a finishing touch, students used the knowledge they gained over four weeks to participate in employer-led mock interviews before each pupil was presented with an employability skills certificate. These were presented to the students by Isles of Glencoe Hotel managers, Andrew Purdon and John Hart. These certificates will be useful for the seven pupils as they can take their award along to interviews and use their knowledge and acquired skills to succeed in the workplace.

Young people are our future

At Wyvex Media we are proud to have given many young people their first big breaks in the media industry

SCOTLAND'S determination to invest in its young people is the key to success both now and in the future and that is something we feel very strongly about here at Wyvex Media.

Life does not standstill – each generation goes on to have careers, start families

and raise children of their own and be part of society. Since 1861 The Oban Times has been reporting about life here in the West Highlands and Islands and also giving many young people their first taste of work in journalism, sales, production, administration and finance.



David McPhee at The Oban Times has gained the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) gold diploma: 'My entry into journalism was a very fortunate one. I was offered a job at The Oban Times in August 2015 - a week before I was scheduled to start college, and eight weeks after I first entered the office on work experience.

'Being able to learn on the job was invaluable. It gave me a head start in many aspects of academia and forced me to use the skills I had learned immediately.

'Being paid to work while I was still in training was also a massive stress reliever, as was being able to stay in my hometown, especially when many of my peers were carrying out unpaid work to gain the same experience.'



Young journalist **Hannah O'Hanlon** at The Campbeltown Courier sat her final exam last week: 'I was born and brought up in Kintyre and I always knew that I wanted to live and work in the area.

'When a trainee reporter position came up at the Campbeltown Courier, it seemed like the perfect position for someone who was keen on English and photography and eager to learn. With training on the job, it was ideal - no having to move to a big city for years to get to where I wanted to be.

'I have spent the last year getting real-life experience on the job in Campbeltown, while also completing a journalism course at college in Glasgow, and while it was challenging travelling and finding

time for everything, it has also been extremely rewarding.

'My local knowledge has proven invaluable and one of the aspects of my job that I love most is being involved in some of the biggest moments in people's lives, and getting behind-the-scenes access to projects I wouldn't previously have had.'



Euan Paterson was one of the most recognised and respected faces of The Oban Times and had an award-winning career with us: 'I joined The Oban Times in 2002, straight from Oban High School. I had been helping in the newsroom in my spare time and was thrilled to be offered a full-time job with training. It allowed me to stay in the area - and get paid - whilst pursuing my career of choice.

'The myriad of skills I picked up during my 13 years at the newspaper have easily transferred to my new role as communications and media officer at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), where my job is to communicate research findings and environmental issues to a general audience.



Ranald Watson, now director of sales and marketing at Springbank Distillers & Mitchell's Glengyle Ltd: 'I began my training with The Oban Times Group when I left school in 1998. My first position was Trainee Reporter, based at The Campbeltown Courier. Together with in-house training from senior colleagues, I took part in a distance learning course with the NCTJ. The course was great as an introduction to journalism and some of the

skills which would be required in my career; those skills were tested and put to use on a daily basis working in a busy office producing a widely-read weekly paper. The highlights of my training were being flown in an RAF Chinook helicopter as part of a large military exercise, being burlled around Knockhill Racing Circuit in a Ferrari and being invited to meet the Queen and Prince Phillip at a reception for young Scottish achievers. I'm probably most proud of gaining my 100 words per minute shorthand certificate mind you!

It might sound obvious but the development of my communication skills was certainly the most important factor in completing my training, gaining my industry qualifications and carrying out my job effectively. Those skills have stayed with me, even though I moved on from journalism after eight years to start working in the whisky industry. The ability to communicate properly, be that by talking, writing and, perhaps most importantly, listening to what people

are saying has been invaluable to me in working and building relationships with enthusiastic customers and whisky drinkers from around the world. I'm also still using that shorthand, much to the amazement (and amusement) of my distillery colleagues.'



At 20-years-old **Amy Boyce** is the latest recruit to The Oban Times, working in our advertising department and her training is in-house. Many folk will know Amy because of her singing; she has a degree from UHI in applied music.

'Apart from working while a student this is my first job. I am enjoying meeting and talking to so many people and being able to start building a career without having to leave the area.'

WYVEX MEDIA



Charlotte Wright chief executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Creating more opportunity for young people

Young people are vital if the Highlands and Islands are to be commercially competitive, with sustainable economic growth and community resilience, Charlotte Wright, of HIE believes.

At Highlands and Islands Enterprise we're excited to be involved in Scotland's Year of Young People. We will be showcasing what we offer as an agency, and calling on businesses and communities to embrace the fresh thinking and innovation young people bring.

While the region is home to many highly-skilled people we have long-recognised how important young people are to commercial competitiveness, sustainable economic growth and community resilience.

With this in mind we want to create more opportunities for young people to stay in the Highlands and Islands and have rewarding careers. We want to attract more young and economically-active people to live, work, study and invest here.

Our research, published in 2015, into the attitudes

'We want to attract more young and economically-active people to live, work, study and invest here.'

and aspirations of young people has been helping to focus our work.

We've put a lot of effort into providing opportunities not only in our traditional sectors such as energy and food and drink, but also in our more recently established sectors such as life sciences and creative industries.

Our student and graduate placement programme, ScotGrad, has been highly successful in bringing businesses and young people together, combining

experience and fresh ideas. Our Graduate Level Apprenticeships and Modern Apprenticeships are providing similar opportunities. And we're working with universities in the region to create new further and higher education options that help retain and attract young people.

In addition to rewarding career paths, other key factors include mobility and connectivity. The Next Generation Broadband roll-out is now reaching more than 85 per cent of our

region, and this is transforming people's lives. Transportation links have also greatly improved in recent decades, including improved air, rail and ferry services.

For the Year of Young People, we are looking at new ways we can contribute meaningfully to the development of young people in the region. One example is exploring ways to encourage and empower more young people to become more actively involved in community organisations, such as local trusts and community or social enterprises.

The year is a great opportunity to demonstrate the pride the region has in its young people and how important they are to its future. I can't wait to see what young people achieve throughout 2018 and I look forward to leading HIE's involvement in what promises to be an exciting year of activity.

Charlotte Wright has held several positions with HIE, beginning at the enterprise company's Lochaber office. She was local enterprise company chief Executive in 2004 and was appointed as the agency's regional director for Highland in 2008, and as director of business and sector development in 2010. Before joining HIE, she ran her own small business in Fort William



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

The online way to get into work

The young people of Scotland's Highlands and islands turn to the same place they live their lives: online.

Nearly a quarter of new job seekers turn to their mobile phones to find work.

'For the mobile jobseeker, especially for those who have never owned a PC, the process of finding a job should be as easy as shopping on Amazon or browsing Instagram,' said Christopher Snelgrove, the man behind the new app developed by Fort William-based pioneering recruitment site HIJOBS, which is an associate of The Oban Times and its sister papers.

The 18 to 24-year-old age group makes up 22.63 per cent of HIJOB users.

Alongside the investment across the Highlands and islands in broadband and 4G by public and private sectors, it means the national and local job markets are just a smart phone away from the UK's most remote communities.

'The increasing availability and reliability of fast internet in the Highlands will continue to be transformative for the prosperity of our rural communities; this improved connectivity paired with our continued development-for-mobile is making this a reality and opening more opportunities for a new generation,' said Christopher.

Business partner Laura Saunders, who runs the commercial side of the company, is based in rural Aberdeenshire: 'The HIJOBS app makes our

job applicants quicker off the mark.

'Our app is one-stop and customisable, an end-to-end service from job alerts through to applying on your phone.

'It sounds pretty simple, but the vast majority of other job sites do not offer this complete service; you need to go home and sit down in front of your PC.'

'Our entirely self-service offering not only delivers results but has also allowed for rapid expansion across the country,' said Christopher.

After working for major players in big cities, the business partners agreed that they wanted to be back in the Highlands and set about building an app and a service which

would help other people do the same.

Stuart Robertson, head of digital at Highlands and Islands Enterprise has said: 'Improving digital communication across the Highlands and Islands is vital in helping our local businesses and communities continue to grow. We can see the results are paying off with more areas across the region now connected.'

He was speaking after O2 announced a major increase in 4G coverage in the region, in over 80 towns, villages and hamlets last year; the mobile network is also starting work on bringing 4G to an additional 90 new locations in the coming months.

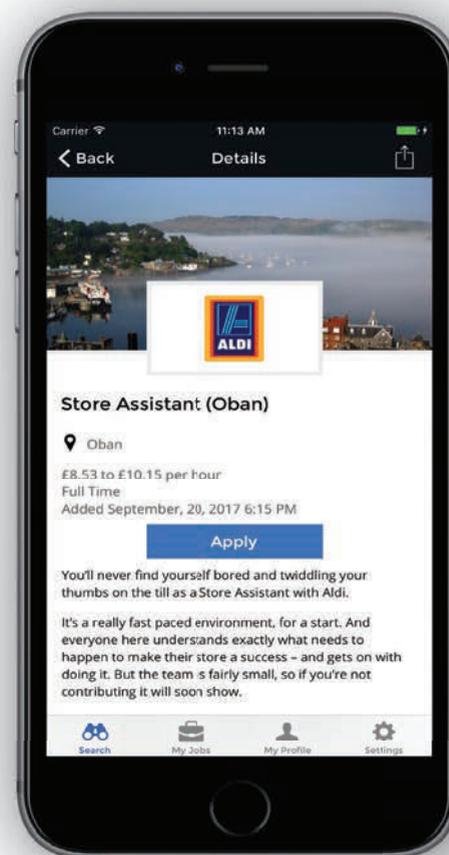
Other telecoms companies are continuing to expand.

'The digital landscape in Scotland has evolved beyond all recognition,' Derek McManus the chief operating officer of O2, said at the celebrations to mark the fourth anniversary of the company providing 4G.

Ofcom reports that nine in 10 younger users are using social media apps.

Increasing 4G mobile coverage is driving consumers' demand for, and use of, mobile data and contributed to a 44 per cent year-on-year increase in average mobile data consumption. Nearly two-thirds of mobile connections in the UK were 4G-enabled at the end of 2016.

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Christopher Snelgrove, Laura Saunders and Keith McIntyre

Building a future in construction

With roots that stretch back for more than 40 years, Macleod Construction Ltd has a proud past and the company looks forward to a bright future.

Every year, Macleod Construction is building more residential and commercial properties

incorporating ever more eco-friendly features; fitting more windows and working with more clients, customers and partners.

And alongside it continues to build a successful business where young people play a vital role in the workforce;

imparting knowledge is just one of Macleod's commitments to 'Young Scots' in Argyll.

Craig, Demi, Duncan, Gregor and Karen are just a few of the success stories; see how they started their careers with Macleod Construction Ltd.



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Craig Young Apprentice Plumber

Hi, I'm Craig, I am 18 and from Lochgilphead. The reason I decided to get myself into an apprenticeship was to get myself a trade but also make money at the same time. I was fortunate to get an apprenticeship with MacLeod Construction as you don't get a lot of chances here in Argyll for young folk. MacLeods' have guided me throughout my apprenticeship so far and I'm looking forward to becoming fully qualified.

In five years I see myself as a fully qualified tradesmen using all my skills and knowledge gained throughout this experience.



Demi Mather Administration & Accounts Assistant

I'm Demi, I am 22 and from Ardrishaig. I have worked in the Plumbing, Electrical & Maintenance Department within MacLeod Construction since 2015. I left school with no idea what I wanted to do but I knew university wasn't for me. I was extremely lucky to get a job within the company at a young age and it has benefited me in many ways & I have also grown as a person. I recently became a Construction Ambassador for the company.

In five years I see myself progressing in a successful career.



Duncan MacIntyre Apprentice Plumber

Hi, I'm Duncan, I am 22 and live in Ford, Argyll. The reason I became an apprentice plumber with MacLeod Construction Ltd was to learn skills that I would not have learnt anywhere else. What attracted me was the fact I could learn whilst earning. I have grown as a person and feel more independent, it has been tough but I'm enjoying every bit of it.

In five years I see myself becoming a fully qualified Plumbing & Heating Engineer with a lot of experience due to opportunities I have had with MacLeod Construction Ltd.



Karen Dixon Legal Trainee

Hi, I'm Karen, I'm 22 and from Kilmartin, Argyll. I have worked in the legal department of MacLeod Construction Ltd since 2015 during my university holidays.

My experience working in the company has provided me with an opportunity to put into practise the knowledge I have gained at university. The skills I have developed, and experience gained during my time here has incremental to securing a full-time position as a Trainee Solicitor in a law firm in Edinburgh.

In five years I see myself a fully qualified solicitor specialising in land & property wide.



Gregor Peacock Apprentice Plumber

Hi, I'm Gregor, I am 23 and from Lochgilphead. The reason I started my apprenticeship with MacLeod Construction was because university wasn't an option for me. Getting an apprenticeship was attractive because I could learn as well as making a living. I come from a family who are qualified in different trades and I felt plumbing was for me. It hasn't just taught me a trade but also life skills, communication and how to work with others.

In five years I see myself becoming a fully qualified plumber and advancing the skill I have already learnt.



Innovative solutions to social challenges

Jennifer Macdonald, director of community supported organic farm and delivery business Woodside Arran, was voted Firstport's Young Social Innovator 2017, winning a £5000 prize and business support.

Jennifer runs an organic market garden and mobile shop serving the rural communities of Arran, addressing the lack of access to affordable, good quality, fresh vegetables on the island. Customers can subscribe for weekly vegetable boxes or buy direct and low income residents can exchange hours of work for free food through a work share scheme.

She said: 'Winning the Social Innovation Competition gave us a huge boost of confidence, but also allowed us to support more people to access our services a lot quicker than we would have been able to on our own.'

'It has fast tracked our business by about six months and allowed us to carry out a lot of the activities we didn't think we would be able to do, at a very challenging time for farming. Winning allowed us to look ahead to the 2018 season and prepare for where we want to be by the end of the year, rather than having to make do with where we are now.'

Do you have a business idea that could make a difference?

This year the Social Innovation Competition is celebrating Scotland's Year of Young People 2018 by looking for individuals with the most exciting,

innovative ideas and solutions to social challenges affecting young people in Scotland. This could be through giving them access to new opportunities or helping them to overcome barriers and inequalities.

At an earlier stage with your idea?

Take a look at Firstport's Pounds for Purpose programme. Designed to support those aged 16 to 26 to take a positive stand on the issues they care about, with awards of £500 up for grabs to test your idea.



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Yellow Badge Training – Rhona McCracken & Rowan Watkins

During the Easter holidays before our 6th year school exams, we had the opportunity to participate in the STGA's Yellow Badge Tourist Guide training course. Our training was sponsored by BID4Oban as part of its commitment to The Year of the Young Person. This was a unique and rewarding experience for us. It was far more challenging than we expected and gave us a real sense of achievement when we passed the exam.

The course itself was an intensive 6-day training programme. We realised that we knew very little about the area we had grown up in; yet this opportunity pushed us to research Oban's history, culture and stories in a way that we would not have been motivated to do oth-

erwise. This aspect of the course was most rewarding as it sparked an interest in Scottish history and led us to carry out more research for our own general knowledge. As well as giving us a reason to read out of our normal areas of interest, the course really improved our confidence and public speaking skills; teaching us how to engage clients and tailor our talks to different audiences. As a result of passing the tourist-guiding exam, a practical walk where each guide spoke for several minutes, Rhona has used the experience and qualification to get a job as a tour guide at Dunollie museum as well as taking walking tours around Oban, with Oban Walking Tours.

We have recently taken

American students on the Laurinburg exchange with Oban High School on one of the tours. The students really liked having guides close to their own age. We also think that having young tourist-guides, demonstrating a knowledge of the history and culture of their town, creates a great image for visitors.

In the future, we hope to run walking tours for a younger demographic, possibly working with Oban Backpackers and Youth Hostel to promote our tours and give young people something to do when visiting to the town. Rowan will be leaving town in September to study Social Sciences and Rhona Computer Science but will both be able to do tours in the holidays.



For more information contact us at BID4Oban on **01631 569 915** or email info@bid4oban.co.uk www.bid4oban.co.uk



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Celebrating the Year of Young People



Building communities with Lego!



Young people have come up with a great idea to use Lego building workshops to bring generations together and create intergenerational activity in their

local area.

Argyll Brixx Convention will be held on August 4 and 5 in Lochgilphead.

Everyone is invited to the convention, to show the ideas and imagina-

tion of young people in the use of building bricks.

This activity is open to all young people in Argyll and Bute; the organisers hope to paint a positive picture of

young people as part of Year of Young People 2018, and to show some creativity while putting Lochgilphead on the map.

This convention will

be the culmination of a year of working with different villages and groups of people to build connections, relationships and Lego creations. The organisers

want to showcase what you have built, and want you to bring something along too.

If you're interested, look out for their Facebook page, coming soon.

THE Royal National Mòd will have links to the Year of Young People 2018

The Royal National Mòd will be held in Dunoon this year, in October and is among the events receiving funding to stage initiatives to mark this special year.

James Graham, Mòd Manager, said: 'This the Year of Young People, and, more than ever, we want to contribute to this special year by encouraging our young people to become involved in the Gaelic Arts. It's extremely

pleasing to see them taking part at local and national Mòds as our young people are crucial to the language.'

An Comunn Gàidhealach, the committee which runs the Mòd is establishing a committee of six young adults aged 16-26 to be a part of our new Young Person's Committee that is being established as part of 2018's Year of Young People in Scotland.

The committee will meet a total of four times via the phone or Skype in the run up to the Royal National Mòd which will be held in Dunoon in October this year. The committee will discuss their views on what they would like to see at The Royal National Mòd and will be assigned a number of projects to see through from start to finish as a team in the run-up to the Mòd.

Join in a poetry slam

If a young Robert Burns was around today he would be slamming - the competitive art of performance poetry.

Year of young People 2018 is helping fund Scottish Youth Poetry Slam 2018.

Poetry slam has 12 or more poets perform their work which is judged by a panel and audience reaction through heats with a dual emphasis on writing and performance.

Young poets from across the country will take part in a series of workshops in preparation for the regional slams and the winners

will go forward to compete in the Scottish Youth Poetry Slam Final on October 31 at the Beacon Arts Centre, Inverclyde.

The Slam is an exciting, live event that is hosted with a guest band and three judges who score the performed poems.

The Inter-Regional Slams are on Tuesday October 2, 12-1.30pm, Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling; Wednesday October 10, 12-1.30pm, Eden Court Arts Centre, Inverness

Tickets are free and all events are live streamed and the Slam Final will be signed.

Cadet Connel gets special Argyll and Bute honour



Connel receives his award from Mrs MacLeod, accompanied by Geordie Rhodick, chairman of Lochgilphead Armed Forces Day. 06_a25AFD04

A 17-year-old from Dunoon has been appointed this year's Lord Lieutenant's Cadet.

Staff sergeant Connel MacLeod of Dunoon detachment of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Battalion army cadet force was presented with his badge at Lochgilphead Armed Forces Day by

Vice Lord Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute, Jane MacLeod.

One cadet is selected in each cadet company each year based on personality and character, length of service, rank, leadership qualities, and achievements in the cadets and wider life.

These cadets accompany the Lord Lieutenant

on various occasions, such as royal visits and civic ceremonies, helping out as necessary.

Connel said afterwards: 'It's really good to get this. I wasn't expecting it.'

'It's something that is great to have when you look for employment so that people can see what you've achieved, so I'm really pleased.'



In Glasgow, online or out gigging - learn with the Academy of Music and Sound

The Academy of Music and Sound's centre in Glasgow has 200 full-time students, studying HND Music, BA(Hons) Professional Music and starting in September this year an MMus Popular Music Performance degree; SAAS funding is available.

The tutors are all working musicians currently active in the Scottish music industries, including Georgia Cecile and Jodie Bremaneson of Skerryvore.

Of the acts performing at the TRNSMT festival this summer, no fewer than seven different acts feature current or former students from the academy.

It has a strong community focus, with lots of extra-curricular activities on offer: including short courses in sound recording, building your own synthesiser and issues in employability for women in the music industry.

The academy has a guitar ensemble which is open to everyone and rehearses weekly, and a monthly multi-media improvisation night. All these are free and open to both AMS full-time students and all other musicians.

Last year, all BA(hons) graduates were in employment or further study six months after graduating, and all of them have continued to be involved in music on either a full time or part time basis.

On average, 96 per cent of people who start the BA(hons) course will complete and pass it.

But you do not have to be in Glasgow to be part of the Academy of Music and Sound, thanks to its

digital learning centre, called AMS Online.

People who have completed an HND Music, or have other relevant professional experience, can join straight into BA(hons) level; and students can use their current musical activities as evidence for their course. The course is flexibly structured and each student has individual mentoring sessions. In-person support (and camaraderie!) would be available in the Glasgow centre as well, if they wanted to come across occasionally.



Nick Jennison: vocalist and lead guitarist with Saints Of Arcadia summed it up: 'I'd highly recommend AMS Online, its flexibility allowed me to gain a degree while fitting it around my touring and gigging schedule - what legends!'

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'I'd highly recommend AMS Online. It's flexibility allowed me to gain a degree while fitting it around my touring and gigging schedule - what legends!' Nick Jennison: Vocalist & Lead Guitarist with Saints of Arcadia

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Hometown tales from boy in bubble

'I have had a really creative spell,' said Colin MacIntyre, a musician and novelist from Mull, as he releases his memoir and first children's book this month.

Colin, the singer-songwriter behind Mull Historical Society, set his first novel on Mull, *The Letters of Ivor Punch*, which won the Edinburgh Book Festival's First Book Award.

Now he has published a memoir about growing up on the island, in *Hometown Tales: Highlands and Hebrides*, the latest in a series of books focusing on talented and important writers in Britain's regions, so far from Glasgow, the Midlands, Yorkshire, Wales, Birmingham, Lancashire, and the South Coast.

Colin's 'bright, funny and deeply felt' story, *The Boy in the Bubble*, sits beside a tale by Ellen MacAskill, A9, described as 'a captivating piece of short fiction about a girl torn between her love in Inverness and the chance to spread her wings'.

Then, the day after Colin's memoir is published on June 28, he launches his first children's picture book, called *The Humdrum Drum* and published by Argyll-based Little Door Books, with illustrations by Chilean artist Catherine Thomann, and accompanied by a CD of Colin's original songs. It is described as 'a heartwarming tale

of friendship and why being different is a good thing'.

'The orchestra drum is feeling very humdrum because he thinks he is being banged and boomed,' Colin explains. 'When Drum is feeling unhappy he stops playing and the entire orchestra comes to an embarrassing halt. But with the help of his friends - a cast of colourful instruments, as well as ironing mice, dish-washing ants and shaving pigeons - Drum realises that without him keeping the beat, they lose their way and that they need him to save the day.'

'I wanted to pen a musical tale about teamwork and togetherness with catchy accompanying songs for all ages. My own girls helped me with the tunes so it was a family affair!'

Little Door Books director Susan Windram said: 'The Humdrum Drum is a wonderful book that reflects Colin's literary and lyrical talent. It is fun and quirky, while at the same time offering a strong positive message.'

Continued on p58



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Mull author and songwriter talks about his latest work

Continued from page 57
'It is a book that families will love.'

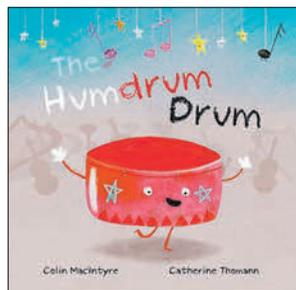
Colin was born into a family of writers and storytellers. 'My grandfather used to tell us we were descendants of the warrior-poet Duncan Ban MacIntyre,' Colin said, 'but I'm still waiting on my shield.'

That grandfather, Angus MacIntyre, was a bank manager and bard on Mull, while the other, John Kilsop, was the island's plumber.

'One was keeping the island afloat while the other kept it from sinking!' Colin said.

His works draw on island characters he knew, such as skippers in the Mishnish, Mull's own Evel Knievel, Iain 'Eeny' Brown.

'Evel Knievel used to jump cars,' Colin said: 'Eeny used to jump human beings on his BMX on Tobermory football pitch. One summer he jumped 17 bodies. I still remember Eeny going over me in his Bruce Lee t-shirt



on his BMX.'

Colin, who now lives in London with his family, said: 'I am always an islander, even trapped in the underground. I am always disappointed when 'Mind the gap' is not replayed in Gaelic.'

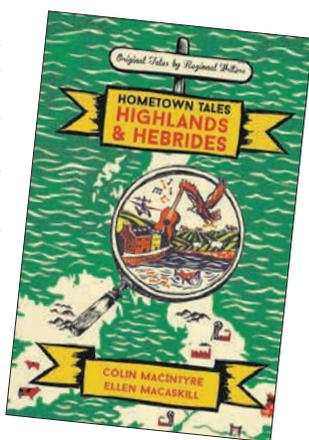
His mum owned the hairdressers in Tobermory, while his father, the late Kenny MacIntyre, was BBC Scotland's political correspondent.

In his memoir, he said: 'I have laid myself bare and how I miss my dad dreadfully. One song [in his upcoming album] is about saying goodbye on a

Monday morning.'

The Mull Historical Society's eighth album *Wakelines*, produced by Bernard Butler, is released in September, as Colin embarks on a UK tour, finishing at the first Tobermory Book Festival at Mull Theatre on October 27.

He is also writing his second novel, and adapting his first, *The Letters of Ivor Punch*, for the stage, due to perform at Oran Mor in Glasgow later this year. 'I can't stop,' Colin said.



A lyrical, magical

An extract from Colin MacIntyre's new memoir *Boy In A Bubble*

My two worlds collided on a wet and windy December night in the mid-1980s. The mainland came to the island.

Picture the scene: a man is wading in from a little boat to an island in the Hebrides. It is the middle of winter and pitch-black. He has a suit on, but no tie, and is carrying an object high above his head as though he has just won the men's final at Wimbledon.

He is travelling back late after spending the week working in the city, as he does every weekend in a whirlwind: a one-man Hebridean Grand Prix.

Having missed the last scheduled Caledonian MacBrayne ferry, his car has been ditched and he has been picked up from the banks of



Colin with his father, political journalist Kenny MacIntyre.

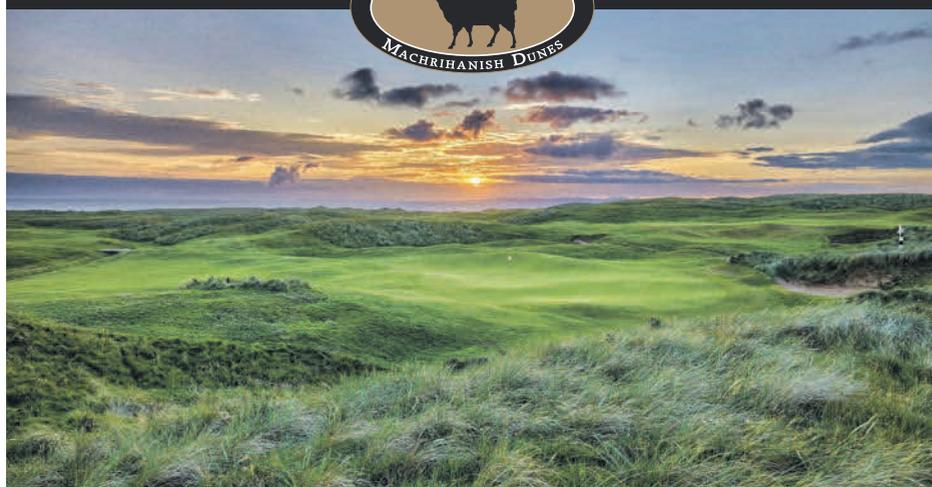
Ardnamurchan by a boat belonging to a clam diver. But the diver's boat can't get any closer to the little jetty on the island. The tides are not behaving. That's what tides do; they either behave or they don't. The man is only lit by the light of the boat. The spotlight makes sideways daggers of the rain, casting a spell over the choppy sea, turning black

into white.

The man is slowly reaching the shore, his drenched suited legs gradually emerging from the sea like Charlie Chaplin from an encounter with a hosepipe. It is Friday night. He is almost home. He is my father. The clam diver is my uncle Rob.

The object held above my father's head is my Christmas present, come early. It is

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journey

not the All England Club's Gentleman's Singles Trophy; it is a 1978 USA original Fender Telecaster guitar. We all know about the day the music died . . . well, this is the night the music arrived.

To me. To my island. You might think from the way I describe the scene I actually witnessed it. I didn't. I was at home waiting for the prize. I was 13, ready to plug in. My world was about to change.

Fifteen years later, my father died suddenly at the age of 54, after jogging around a reservoir north of Glasgow, where he was working as a journalist for the BBC.

The shock of his death kick-started my music career proper and inspired my debut album, Loss.

That was my way of celebrating him, what he had given to me; what he had waded home with that dark, wet night.

I still have that guitar, with its unusual finish of light green and cream. I have never seen another like it.

I am looking at it now – at the stickers I naively defaced it with in my youth. SAVEEA, one says.

It was a popular word among my close-knit group of teenage friends. Nothing was ever severe in our

world; it was always 'saveea'.

The guitar has travelled around the world with me; it has stood on festival stages and in TV and radio studios, been played on eight albums and counting. But I have always looked at it as having come from the sea.

Every time I plug it in, I expect to be 13. I expect an electric shock. And in a way that is what it gave me when it arrived in 1984 and continues to give me now.

It has journeyed with me to the mainland from where it came, as I became an islander among mainlanders, a musician, and then a writer too.

It is never far from me, just as the Isle of Mull is never far from me. I am always an islander, even in London, where I have settled with my wife and two girls.

I am constantly surprised that the Thames is not the sea; that the voice over the speaker on the tube is a driver from London Transport and not the familiar tones of the CalMac ferry announcer; that the Piccadilly line stops are interspersed with warnings to 'MIND THE GAP' and not the availability of trinkets in the ferry shop.

And all this then replayed in Gaelic. That's what I hear.

A tale of love and adventure in WWII

We Fought For Ardnish, by Angus MacDonald – review by Kelsey Ward at The Highland Bookshop, Fort William

Donald Angus Gillies joins the Lovat Scouts during the Second World War.

On a special operatives mission he falls for Francoise, a resistance agent for the allies. As the tragedies of war try to pull them apart, they are given one final, and very dangerous mission.

This novel takes the reader from the dizzying heights of the Alps, to the blustery sea coast of Cape Breton, and, of course, to the west coast of Scotland.

Donald Angus is charming and relatable, with homely notions. While Francoise is coy, leaving the reader full of questions, just as Donald Angus is.

Above all this book is an excellent reflection of a love of one's home and heritage.

It is clear MacDonald has a deep affection for the landscape and history of the west coast, particularly the Ardnish/Arisaig peninsula. It unfolds with close-to-home characters and careful, nostalgic

depictions of what things really used to be like.

MacDonald is also thoroughly versed in history and his research in all aspects of war, land and people shows through. He is generous with his information as a means of truly building the backdrop to a marvellous adventure.

A good soldiering pace is kept in his writing, as he casts between the sweet past and the dogged now of the Second World War. The calm moments give impact to the rush of drama and action. Simply put, it was a page turner, and rather difficult to put down.

Angus MacDonald has lived all his life in the Highlands and is steeped in their tales. He served in his local regiment, the Queen's Own Highlanders.

A serial entrepreneur he was awarded the Spear's UK entrepreneur of the year award for 2017, building businesses in publishing, renewable energy, recycling and education. He founded The Caledonian Challenge and runs The Moidart Trust, as well as being co-owner of The Highland Bookshop in Fort William.

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town
Diary bid4oban.co.uk

Thursday 28th June

Oban Health Walk
Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am

Oban Walking Tours
Oban, i-centre
10am - 11.30am
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment
@ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURS

Friday 29th June

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

WHA Friendship Club
The Rockfield Centre
2pm - 4pm

The Royal Hotel Quiz Night
All proceeds to Hope Kitchen and Oban Link Club
7.30pm

Markie Dans Music Festival
Crooked Reel & Chunks
Free entry
Open till 3am

Live Music & Entertainment
@ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

Saturday 30th June

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Oban Walking Tours
Oban, i-centre
10am - 11.30am
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Green Shoots Open Garden
Glencruitten Walled Garden
11am - 3pm
Free Entry

Markie Dans Music Festival
Crooked Reel, Ceol An Aire, Rhuvval & Crackin' Craic



Free entry
Open till 3am

Hill Walk
Glen Lyon, Killin
All Day

Live Music & Entertainment
@ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

Sunday 1st July

Markie Dans Music Festival
Rolling Drones, K9 Kev & OB, Robert Robertson Band & Crackin' Craic
Free entry
Open till 2am

Monday 2nd July

Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilphead
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

Tuesday 3rd July

Oban Walking Tours
Oban, i-centre
10am - 11.30am
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Wednesday 4th July

Slimming World
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Live Music & Entertainment
@ The Lorne Bar Oban
Lorne Pub Quiz
Starting at 9pm
£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

Events may charge.
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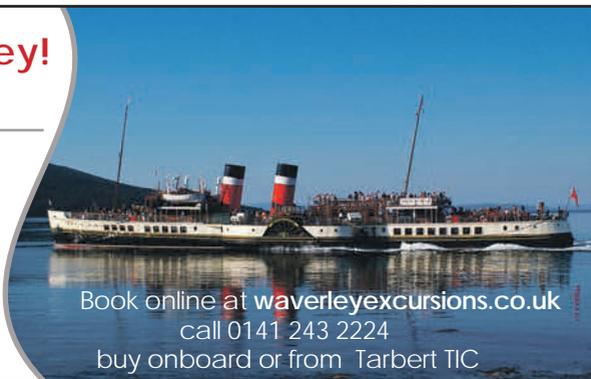
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Summer dining in Oban: Loch Melfort Hotel

For the best of West Coast produce, fresh and wonderful flavours, served in a stunning setting, look no further than Loch Melfort Hotel & Restaurant.

Loch Melfort is situated by Arduaine Point next to Arduaine Gardens and has direct access to the beach, where you can take a digestive stroll by the sea after a lovely meal.

You can dine in the hotel's 2AA Rosette restaurant (evenings) or the more informal Bistro (open all day for refreshments and drinks, as well as lunch and dinner service). Both have direct sea views and you won't fail to be taken in by

the amazing scenery, looking out over the Sound of Jura and the Inner Hebrides beyond.

Loch Melfort is passionate about good food and fine wine and this is reflected in a menu



that makes the most of Argyll produce and foraged summer ingredients.

The Bistro is a relaxed bar and

restaurant with an emphasis on fresh local seafood although meat lovers also get plenty of choice. It boasts a strong wine list and some excellent local ales and

draught beers. The home-made ice creams and baking make it an excellent choice for families with a play area next to the terrace and our friendly local residents, the hens and Highland cows.

The Restaurant offers a wonderful dining experience in

comfortable, more formal surroundings. The seasonal menu delivers options that combine traditional dishes with modern techniques, showcasing a range of locally foraged ingredients from the woods and the sea. Sure to delight food lovers from home

and abroad. With a choice from the A La Carte or Table d'hôte menus and a beautiful wine list to select from, a meal here is a lovely experience you won't forget in a hurry.

Loch Melfort looks forward to welcoming you this summer.

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Eye to eye

JOHN WALLACE



Myopia prevention and control

Regular readers will recall my passion for minimising the effects of myopia in children and adults.

Myopia (short sightedness) develops when the eye grows larger than normal or when one of the optical components inside the eye becomes too strong optically.

Both result in light focusing in the wrong place and everything becoming very blurred for the sufferer.

Traditionally, treatment was by wearing glasses or contact lenses to bring everything back into sharp focus on the retina.

Before the introduction of smartphones and personal computers about 16 per cent of the population were myopic. Today up to 40 per cent of Caucasians and up to 90 per cent of Chinese children are myopic.

It's become so bad the World Health Organisation

has declared an epidemic of myopia and massive amounts of research is being undertaken to minimise the development of myopia.

It is now some 20-plus years since I started attempting to control myopic development in children. Those early attempts had limited success. Today our knowledge base has grown massively and myopia control is now based on a combination of specially designed contact lenses, control of the working environment and ensuring our eyes are functioning well together.

Using the appropriate techniques it is now possible to limit myopic development by around 80 per cent in most cases.

Last week the front page of the Scottish Daily Mail was devoted to how our youngsters are rapidly

becoming myopic. The UK-based 'experts' featured all talked about excessive use of smartphones and recommended children should be outside playing in sunlight. They were partially correct but there is much more to myopia control than simply limiting time spent on smartphones.

When you next have your child's vision checked by your optician and you are told they need stronger glasses because their myopia has increased ask what can be done to limit your child's myopia.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists
The West Highland
Orthokeratology Clinic
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

Organised crime washes up on shores of Loch Melfort

A former senior police officer turned crime writer, who launched his latest novel, *Shores of Death*, this month, says he found fresh inspiration for the book on the shores of Loch Melfort.

Peter Ritchie, pictured right, a former fisherman and retired senior police officer from Musselburgh, near Edinburgh, delivers real-world authenticity in his novels through his experience gained working in CID, serious and regional crime squads and Europol.

Peter told *The Oban Times* he had been holidaying at the Pier Lodges at Melfort Pier and Harbour, Kilmelford for many years: 'I have put a lot of words on paper there, in between enjoying the wonderful scenery.

'The north end of the loch is where some dramatic action takes place between a team of Newcastle gangsters and a specialist police



team headed by Macallan.' This is Peter's third book with protagonist DCI Grace Macallan.

An undercover officer is missing and a young woman is washed up barely alive on the Berwickshire coast. The story is complex, a web involving trafficked women from Eastern Europe and alliance of ruthless criminals from Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

At the head of this corporation is Pete Handyside a dangerous career criminal, who realises his team has

been infiltrated and sets off a train of events where some of the most cold-blooded criminals turn on each other in an attempt to clean the trail of evidence leading to them.

Peter continued: 'This is the most complex story I've written so far and what I love about it was I was able to use the experience of my early life as a deep sea fisherman working from North Shields on the banks of the Tyne. Those experiences had a profound effect on the way I saw the world and the hardships at sea taught me some painful lessons.

'When I first started my time at sea my first summers were spent working from Oban at the hake and then langoustine fishing, and I fell in love with the whole area and, of course, the islands. One of my favourite spots is Loch Melfort.'

Shores of Death is available to purchase now.

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LOCHGILPHEAD

Lochgilphead Baptist Church
Union Street/ Argyll Street
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

CAMPBELTOWN

Masonic Recreational Lodge
St John Street
Tuesdays 1pm,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

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Win family tickets to see sensational circus

Circus Montini has announced dates across the Highlands as it extends its current tour.

The dazzling combination of theatre, music and dance will be appearing at a number of venues, including Oban, Fort William and on Lewis.

The cast of international artistes brings a mix of acrobatics, comedy, juggling, illusion and aerial feats. There are no animals, and quality and innovation are at the top of the agenda for this company of human performers.

Circus Montini promises 'high quality, affordable family entertainment'.

A spokesperson said: "There will be something for everyone as we can guarantee laughs, thrills, suspense and lots of action."

"In a world full of digital and virtual entertainment with computer games and the internet, nothing can ever beat bringing the whole family



Circus Montini will visit Oban, Fort William and Stornoway.

together to witness the magic of a live performance.'

The Oban Times has six family tickets to give away – two adults and two children (children must be 2-12 years).

To be in with a chance of winning answer the following question: What does Circus Montini promise?

Send your name, address and a daytime telephone number to

editor@obantimes.co.uk. The closing date is Monday July 2 at noon.

For full terms and conditions, visit www.obantimes.co.uk

The circus will be at Tong Hall football pitch in Stornoway from July 2-7; Lochaber Rural Complex in Fort William on July 11 and 12; and at Mossfield in Oban from July 13 to 15.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 28 T-ÒGMHIOS / THURSDAY 28 JUNE

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)
- 19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)
- 21.00 Turas Tony – Rèis Beinn Neibhis (rpt)
- 22.00 Aghaidh ri Aghaidh
Chanel vs Schiaparelli (rpt)
- 22.50 Belladrum 2016 – Breabach (rpt)
- 23.10 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
- 23.30 Air an Rathad (rpt)

DIHAIONE 29 AN T-ÒGMHIOS / FRIDAY 29 JUNE

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 18.35 Machair (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là – News
- 19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 19.30 Prosaig (rpt)
- 20.00 Air an Ùrlar (rpt)
- 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
- 21.00 Tannadice '87 (rpt)
- 21.55 Hinterland (rpt)
- 23.35 Belladrum 2017: Millburn (rpt)
- 23.00 Opry an Iùir (rpt)
- 23.50 Dhan Uisge – Firth of Forth (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 30 T-ÒGMHIOS / SATURDAY 30 JUNE

- 16.00 ÒR | NEW: Camanachd Beò
Celtic Society Cup
- 18.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.30 Machair (rpt)
- 19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.00 Prosaig (rpt)
- 20.30 O Mo Dhùthaich (rpt)
- 21.00 Opry an Iùir (rpt)

- 21.50 Dhan Uisge (Isle of Arran) (rpt)
- 22.00 Third Lanark (rpt)
- 23.00 Camanachd Beò
Celtic Society Cup (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 01 T-IUCHAR / SUNDAY 01 JULY

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 18.30 ÒR | NEW: Seachd La
News Review
- 19.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)
- 20.00 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)
- 20.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaoarach (rpt)
- 22.00 Belladrum 2017 – Millburn (rpt)
- 22.20 Hinterland (rpt)

DILUAIN 02 T-IUCHAR / MONDAY 02 JULY

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine (rpt)
- 19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 ÒR | NEW: Vets:
Gach Creutair Beò
- 21.00 Trusadh – Feadaireachd
(Whistling) (rpt)
- 22.00 Port – Dùn Èideann (rpt)
- 22.30 Sàr-sgeòil: His Bloody Project (rpt)
- 23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
- 23.45 Dhan Uisge (Isle of Arran) (rpt)
- 23.50 Belladrum 2017 – Vukovi (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 03 T-IUCHAR / TUESDAY 03 JULY

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)
- 19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)

- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Dualchas a' Chaisteil (rpt)
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaoarach (rpt)
- 22.00 Trusadh – Feadaireachd
(Whistling) (rpt)
- 23.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)
- 23.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)

DICIADAIN 04 T-IUCHAR / WEDNESDAY 04 JULY

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine (rpt)
- 19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Bonn Còmhraidh (rpt)
- 21.00 Cùm Grèim! (rpt)
- 22.00 ÒR | NEW: An Sgrùdaire
- 22.15 ÒR | NEW: Dhan Uisge (Lochindorb)
- 22.25 ÒR | NEW: Belladrum 2017
Tamzene
- 22.30 Port – Dùn Èideann (rpt)
- 22.55 Turas Tony – Rèis Beinn Neibhis (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 05 T-IUCHAR / THURSDAY 05 JULY

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)
- 19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)
- 21.00 Ever Believe Me
Sgeulachd Madeleine Smith (rpt)
- 22.00 Belladrum 2016
Tiggs Da Author (rpt)
- 22.20 Aghaidh ri Aghaidh
Korolev vs von Braun (rpt)
- 23.10 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
- 23.30 Air an Rathad (rpt)



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Fort William's Leisure and Recreation Facility

The Nevis Centre

What's on at The Nevis Centre

JUNE

Sunday 24th
West Highland Way Presentation

JULY

Monday 23rd Mark Beaumont

AUGUST

Saturday 4th Piping Competition
Saturday 11th Skipinnish

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 1st Ben Race
Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th
Induction Week College
Friday 7th College Ceilidh
Saturday 8th Action Med Research
Sunday 9th Dog Show
Friday 14th Bruce Tait Charity
Sunday 30th Electric Road Show

OCTOBER

Thursday 4th College Graduation
Sunday 7th Irish Country Show
Saturday 13th Doug Allan

NOVEMBER

Saturday 3rd Boxing Provisional
Saturday 24th Xmas Fayre

DECEMBER

Saturday 1st Tide Lines
Saturday 8th Marine Harvest Xmas Do
Friday 14th
Red Hot Chilli Pipers Provisional
Monday 31st Hogmanay

JANUARY

Wednesday 2nd Skerryvore/Skipinnish

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MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Camp-

bell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig,

20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight

SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

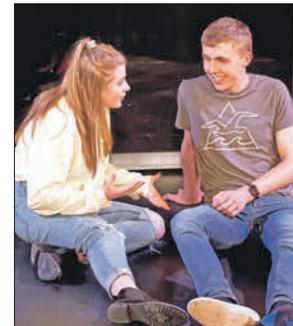
Mull Youth Theatre
comes of age...

Five years to the day since the senior members of Mull Youth Theatre performed their first major production, Pan, they took to the stage again with a powerful exploration of gender and identity in Reset: Framework and Fragments.

Directed by founder member Kate Stevens, who also wrote the script, the young cast researched, devised and delivered a thought-provoking piece about the LGBTQ+ community.

With professional creative support from National Theatre Scotland's Sarah Rose Graber; Mull Youth Theatre founder Andi Stevens; set, sound and lighting from Alan Melvin and Martin Low and poster design by Ruth Darling, the stage was set for an evening which demanded the audience think outside the box. Literally.

A cleverly designed, huge, empty cube created and broke



Photograph: Sarah Darling

boundaries as island girl Breagha ventured to the city.

As Breagha, Flora Thomasson gave a remarkable performance. She took us on a convincing journey from life with horses, wellies and kittens to a growing awareness of the diversity of ways others live their lives: to finding confidence, acceptance and love.

Despite echoes of Cinderella, this was no ordinary fairytale. Compelling

performances from Izzy Willis, Zac Finch, Hannah Thorne and Vicki Stevens used humour, facts, anecdotes, questions, movement, music: subtle layer upon layer. They demanded the audience consider how we understand gender and identity. And they made that difficult task accessible and even enjoyable. They turned dust into glitter and convinced us it is time to activate the reset, with courage and joy. Mature work, indeed.

Reset: Framework and Fragments is part of National Theatre Scotland's biennial exchange festival. From July 2-6, Eden Court Theatre in Inverness will showcase productions by 10 companies from Scotland, England, Chicago and Malta.

Director Kate Stevens and her senior Mull Youth Theatre cast won a place at the festival, describing their company as 'electric', 'a team', 'close', 'unique', and 'a family'.

Screen Machine
Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Tobermory
Tighnabruaich
Lochgilthead

Fri 6 - Sun 8 July
Mon 9 July
Tue 10 - Wed 11 July

Avengers: Infinity War (12A) 149 mins
Marvel mayhem. 06/07 at 5pm, 07/07 at 8pm, 11/07 at 8pm

Eddie (12A) 101 mins
Sheila Hancock stars in an inspirational drama shot in the north west Highlands. 06/07 at 8.30pm, 08/07 at 2pm, 09/07 at 8.30pm, 10/07 at 8.30pm, 11/07 at 2pm

Sherlock Gnomes (U) 86 mins
07/07 at 2pm, 09/07 at 5.30pm, 10/07 at 5.30pm

Love, Simon (12A) 109 mins
Charming teen drama about a young man coming to terms with the fact that he is gay. "Funny, sentimental and smart" Empire 07/07 at 5.30pm, 11/07 at 5.30pm

The Breadwinner (12A) 94 mins
Magical story about a brave girl whose father has been imprisoned by the Taliban. "terrific movie" Mark Kermode Observer ***** 08/07 at 5.30pm

A Quiet Place (15) 90mins
Innovative thriller. "Completely unnerving" Radio Times 08/07 at 8.30pm
Before **Eddie** we will show a short film about the Suilven Path Repair Project.
Before **Love, Simon** we will screen a free photo presentation: **Marcelo Brodsky - 1968: The Fire of Ideas**. Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults.

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Hope Kitchen

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Night £3 entry 6 in
a team. Proceeds to
Hope Kitchen and
Oban Link Club.

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Saturday 30th June
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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Care for a Cèilidh hits 200

Speaking of Donald MacLeod (or Donnie Maroot, as he is affectionately known), I recently gave a song for the 200th Care for a Cèilidh event.

These are cèilidhs that Donnie has been organising in old folk's homes on a completely voluntary basis for the last few years.

He started out in Glasgow but has since hosted cèilidhs all round the country and continues to do so despite now spending most of his time in the Isle of Man, where he works.

To think he has hosted 200 of these events is unbelievable – and that's not all of it.

When I arrived, Donnie informed me that this anniversary cèilidh had actually ended up the 204th because he had staged three similar cèilidhs at very short notice only days before!

Such is his remarkable enthusiasm for helping people out and making people happy



Donald MacLeod.

through music. It was a very enjoyable event at which myself and Donnie were joined by Claire MacLennan's young Highland dancers who, as you can imagine, charmed the old folk considerably.

As I was half way through a rendition of Maggie Ann from Clachnabrochan, one resident decided she didn't like my singing and tried to escape! Perhaps I won't be asked back for the 300th... Happy Birthday, Care for a Cèilidh!

Gaelic choirs excel at festival

A fortnight ago, you may remember I inadvertently but happily ended up at the Govan Gaelic Choir cèilidh in the Park Bar.

I seem to have a habit of doing such things, but this week I unfortunately had no such luck as I failed to make it down to the Glasgow Islay Choir's equivalent cèilidh in the Islay Inn.

Thankfully, as I wrote last week, I had already heard the Glasgow Islay at their Runrig tribute the previous week where they performed some really stunning arrangements of Runrig songs - most of which were from the pen of their conductor, Kirsteen Grant, and a couple of which were arranged by Eoin Millar, former conductor of the choir, who took the baton from Kirsteen for his own arrangements.

Both the pub cèilidhs were organised by An Lòchran for the West End Festival as well as a massed

Gaelic Choirs event in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery at which all the Glasgow choirs were represented and conducted by Kathryn Callander.

Donald MacLeod, an An Lochran board member and tenor with the GG choir, was stopped by two American tourists as he left the venue: 'Good job with the singing man,' they said. As Donnie says himself, this just goes to prove how miraculously good the acoustics of the Kelvingrove Art Gallery must be!

What's on

Friday June 29: Helensburgh and District Highland Association Dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm.

Pub scene

Islay Inn
Friday June 29: Bad Influence

Saturday June 30: Buchanan Street Preachers
Park Bar

Friday June 29: Beinn Lee
Saturday June 30: Gunna Sound.

Rockfield launches tours to support community shares

The Rockfield Centre has raised more than £36,000 in the week since the community shares were launched.

Last weekend chairman Gordon McNab led four tours of the main building and this coming weekend he will be doing the same on Saturday on the hour from 1pm.

He said: 'We are asking everyone to dig deep and buy community shares – even if it's a family or group clubbing together – it's a way of invest-

ing in your community. The Rockfield Centre will provide something for everyone when the main building is open.

'Come along and join a tour of parts of the main building and see what it will be able to offer you, your family and visitors to the town.'

Gordon added that as well as individuals he was looking to businesses in the town to invest: 'This is an ideal opportunity to give something back to your community. When

the centre is up and running it will boost spending in the town and surrounding area since the centre will both attract as a destination and keep more people in the town and surrounding area to spend across all sectors. Please give generously so that together we can all make this happen.'

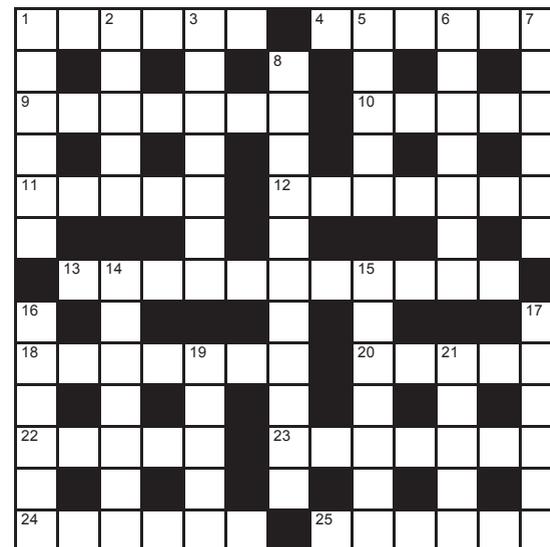
To find out more about tours of the main building check out the Facebook page of Oban Communities Trust,

The Rockfield Centre or call into the office at the community huts and sign up.

Meanwhile the community huts were full last weekend with the Master Builders Lego Club run by Fiona Shaw and the centre's Mini Music club.

A fully-booked writing workshop with Kevin MacNeil was a great success and Kevin also participated in the open mic night, Let's Make A Scene.

Crossword



Across

- 1 Frech decoration from the 18th century (6)
- 4 Fragrance derived from trees genus commiphora (6)
- 9 To praise (7)
- 10 Not as wet (5)
- 11 Vista (5)
- 12 Understanding (7)
- 13 American river (11)
- 18 Dumplings (7)
- 20 Run out (5)
- 22 Unsophisticated (5)
- 23 Port (7)
- 24 Sun shade (6)
- 25 Happy face drawn (6)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Down

- 1 Work out into something new (6)
- 2 Social stratum (5)
- 3 Solidify (7)
- 5 Total (3,2)
- 6 In love (7)
- 7 One who suffers constantly (6)
- 8 Heavy desk item (11)
- 14 One who went to a certain English college (7)
- 15 Rule of an equation (7)
- 16 Land on Lake Victoria (6)
- 17 Brief snow shower (6)
- 19 Free from dirt (5)
- 21 Move stealthily (5)

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or call at her office at Crinan Boatyard each day trip begins at:
9.00 – 10.00 – 11.00 – 12.00 – 14.00 – 15.00 – 16.00
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FARMING

Around the markets

Caledonian Marts Ltd, Monday June 25, had forward 107 store cattle. A smaller show forward resulted in trade being dearer for the cattle forward.

Bullocks averaged 220ppkg selling to 259p from Glenside Farms for a pen of Charolais X and to £1,140 for a Luing from A McKenzie & Partners, Ardgate, Gartocharn.

Heifers averaged 202ppkg selling to 215p for a beef Shorthorn from A Frame, Burnside, Strathaven and to £900 for a Luing from A McKenzie & Partners, Ardgate.

Bulls sold to £1,000 for a Friesian from R Clowes, Newhall, Solsgrith and to 180p for a Charolais X from the same home.

Other leading prices:
Bullocks per head: £1,100, £1,070 (Twice), £10,40, £1,020 and £1,000 Ardgate; £990 Blairlinnans; £980 Binnhill; £940 Wester Pirleyhill.

Bullocks per kilo: 229p Binnhill; 226p Blairlinnans; 225p Ardgate; 223p Blairlinnans.

Heifers per head: £830 Newhall; £830 and £800 Burnside; £790 Newhall (Twice).

Bulls per head: £890 and £830 Newhall.

Ewes and lambs:

Ewes and lambs sold to £101 for a BF ewe with twins from J Napier, Backyetts, Thornhill. Ewes with singles sold to £96, again from J Napier, Backyetts.

Caledonian Markets Thursday June 21: 159 cattle comprising 101 prime bullocks and heifers to include 13 young bulls, and 58 cast cows and bulls. A better show of cattle for both quality and numbers would be dearer on the week, and more could have been sold.

Prime bullocks averaged 223p; prime heifers averaged 232p; young bulls averaged 192p; beef cows averaged 153p; dairy cows averaged 114p.

Heifers sold to 255p (three times) for Limousins from W Pettigrew, Faskine, Airdrie and two from D Dickinson, Brockwoodlees, Canonbie purchased by D Campbell & Son Butcher, Callander, T Connor Butcher, Troon and Hugh A Black & Sons, Stirling.

Bullocks sold to 248p again three times all for Limousins from A A & J Brand, Nethermyres, Auchtermuchty; A S Hay, Mains of Culmalundie, Tibbermore and T H Gray, Balquharrage, Lennoxtown to T Johnston Butchers, Falkirk; J Hastie Butcher, Markinch and Robert Alexander Butchers, Port Glasgow.

Young Bulls sold to 218p for a Limousin from I W Brisbane, South Woodlane, Blairdrummond to J F Finlay Ltd, Wishaw.

Heifers per kilo:

252p Brockwoodlees; 250p Nether Myres; 245p West Thomaston, Moorfield, Faskine & Balquharrage; 242p Rathillet & Moorfield; 240p Balquharrage & Nether Glinns; 238p Rathillet & West Thomaston; 235p Moorfield

& Shields (Crawford).

Bullocks per kilo:

245p Turniemoon, Nethermyres & Brockwoodlees; 238p Faskine & Easterton (Owen); 235p Bruckley (twice), Moorfield, Balquharrage & Brockwoodlees; 232p Bankhead (Wishart) & Moorfield; 230p Rathillet, Turnie; Moon & Nethermyres

Bulls per kilo:

212p Cauldshiel Cattle Company; 210p South Woodlane; 208p Giffordland (twice); Bullocks per head: £1,763 and £1,644 South Flanders; £1,651 Mains of Culmalundie; £1,612 Nethermyres; £1,594 Loanrigg; £1,580 Aitkenhead.

Heifers per head:

£1,678 Mains of Culmalundie; £1,577 and £1,551 West Thomaston; £1,451 Nethermyres; £1,402 Brockwoodlees.

Also forward were 58 OTMs, cast cows and bulls.

With a smaller show forward, trade met a high with OTM beef selling to 225ppkg for a Limousin from J McAlister, West Thomaston, Banknock and to £1,557 for the same beast, with the beef average being 153ppkg.

Dairy cows averaged 114p selling to 126ppkg from R & J Kerr, Balegreggan, Campbeltown and to £920 from D Graham, West Backs, Campbeltown.

Other leading prices:

Beef Cows per head:

£1,490 West Thomaston;
£1,400 Nether Glinns;
£1,390 Pirnhall;
£1,380 West Thomaston;
£1,370 Balquharrage;
£1,350 Dullmuir;
£1,340 Oatfield (Campbeltown).

Beef Cows per kilo:

195p West Thomaston;
185p & 183p Dullmuir;
181p West Thomaston;
179p Nether Glinns;
177p Oatfield (Campbeltown).

Dairy cows per head:

£870 Kaimhill;
£858 Aitkenhead;
£840 Balegreggan (Campbeltown);
£830 Harvieston;
£790 Balegreggan & Harvieston;
£770 Kaimhill.

Dairy Cows per kilo:

125p Balegreggan;
123p Harvieston;
122p & 120p Kaimhill;
119p & 117p West Backs.

Royal Highland Show

by Colin Cameron
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Farmers gathered in their thousands for the Royal Highland Show, some with mixed feelings about being there when they could have been taking advantage of the good weather to clip sheep or get the first cut into the pit.

A few meetings with old friends later and all doubts were dismissed.

The weather was brilliant over the four-day event held at Ingliston near Edinburgh between Thursday June 21 and Sunday June 24.

In the livestock lines there was success for Argyll and Bute farmers.

Starting with the Blackface sheep on Thursday, J&J MacPherson from Balliemanoach, Loch Awe, secured a third prize in a strong Blackface tup lamb class. The Balliemanoach lamb is an embryo transfer by a £10,000 Auldhouseburn tup out of a homebred ewe by a £9,000 Lurg.

John MacPherson: 'We did very well, I would say. Our two shear was placed sixth in one of the strongest classes and we got a fifth with the ewe lamb, which



Dalmally hill sheep farmer and agricultural celebrity Sybil MacPherson commentates on a cookery demonstration at the National Sheep Association Scottish branch marquee.

06_a26RH547

is quite pleasing after the way the weather was earlier in the year.'

Duncan Buchanan, Shenavallie, Benderloch, won second with his north country Cheviot shearling tup.

Brian and Janet Hill had a successful trip across from Plan Farm on the Isle of Bute. In the Hampshire Down show ring Janet took second with her two shear senior stock ram. There were two

third places – for an aged ewe and a ewe lamb – and a sixth for a gimmer. The star of the show for Brian and Janet, however, was a home-bred ewe which took first prize in her class and was reserve female champion.

From Heylipol on Tiree, Alasdair MacLean did well in the Beltex section, taking home to the island second prizes for his shearling tup, shearling ewe and ewe lamb.

Among the cattle lines, R&P McAlister from Bute were handed a third place rosette with Langalbuinloch Kojack in the beef Shorthorn class for bulls born in 2016.

The Highland cattle classes have been an area where Argyll breeders have historically done well at the show. This year Queenie Strickland's Cladich fold from the banks of Loch Awe – brought out by farm manager Stuart Campbell – took home a second prize with one-year-old heifer Princess Mairi 4th of Cladich. There was also a third for Capleadh Buidhe Beg 4th of Cladich in the four-year-old cow section and a fourth for one-year-old bull Monadh Mor of Cladich.

For full report, visit www.obantimes.co.uk



Queenie Strickland with her winning heifer, Princess Mairi 4th of Cladich. 06_a26RH561



It was a busy show for auctioneer Raymond Kennedy. 06_a26RH563

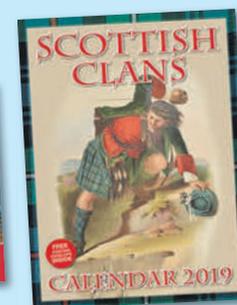
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Claire Simonetta moved to Mull from Switzerland.

Mull farmer features in new Scottish Government campaign on diversity

by Martin Laing
[mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:milaing@obantimes.co.uk)



A new campaign which tells the personal stories of people who have moved to Scotland from overseas and made their lives here features a farmer living on Mull.

Claire Simonetta, who moved to Scotland from Switzerland, is shown going about her daily life as part of the Scottish Government's We Are Scotland campaign, which celebrates the contribution people from overseas make to Scotland's communities, economy and culture.

Claire came to Scotland in 2010 accompanying her mother to a conference organised by the Highland Cattle Society.

She said: 'I absolutely loved it and spent all my holidays thereafter in Scotland. A local farmer suggested that if I liked it so much, I should come over and do work experience. So 18 months after my first trip to Scotland, I quit my job and moved here permanently.'

Claire has worked her way through different agricultural and veterinary

placements across Scotland and Wales, before applying to study agriculture at university.

She has now settled in Mull and works on a traditional hill farm, with cattle and sheep, with her partner, Iain, as well as doing part-time agricultural consultancy for other businesses.

'My favourite thing about living in Scotland has to be the people. Everyone is very genuine and hospitable, and I absolutely love the Scottish sense of humour.

'When I first came over, I have to admit I really struggled with the accent. When I met my partner, I didn't understand a single word he was saying! Scottish is just so different from the English I learned at school.'

There were around 378,000 non-British nationals living in Scotland in 2017, about seven per cent of the population (NRS, May 2018), reflecting the attraction of moving to Scotland to study and work. The Scottish Government estimates that EU nationals alone contribute around £4.42 billion a year to the economy.

Western Isles MSP and Minister

for International Development and Europe Alasdair Allan said: 'Migration is crucial to the development of Scotland as an inclusive, fair, prosperous and innovative country ready and willing to embrace the future.'

'It is essential to our economic prospects and our demographic sustainability that Scotland continues to attract the level and nature of migration it needs.

'People from overseas who come to Scotland to live, to study, to work or to raise their families are our friends, colleagues and neighbours. They strengthen our society and we welcome them.'

According to the National Records for Scotland (NRS), the country's population growth is dependent on migration.

The We Are Scotland campaign message is that 'we all stay here', emphasising that, no matter where people come from, they have a valuable contribution to make.

The campaign film and information can be viewed at <https://onescotland.org/campaigns/we-are-scotland/>.

Crofting federation bids farewell to stalwart John

The recent Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) AGM saw a change of company secretary after a decade of dedicated service from John Bannister MBE.

'John has been doing a sterling job as our company secretary,' said Russell Smith, chairman of the SCF, 'and it is very sad for us, but understandable, that he wishes to retire from official duties and concentrate on his croft business.'

'It is a very responsible governance role and takes a great deal of attention to detail.'

'He was also secretary of the Skye and Lochalsh branch of SCF, and a great passion of John's was practical, accessible training in crofting skills.'

'He set up the SCF training programme 20 years ago and was closely involved in the programme and the training panel until recently.'

'We expressed our thanks at our board and council meeting, awarding John an honorary life membership of the SCF and presenting him with the traditional shepherd's cromach, a symbol of his stewardship role.'

Mr Smith added: 'We also gave a warm welcome to his

successor, Fiona Mandeville, whose role was ratified at the AGM. Fiona is very well known in crofting, having worked as a staff member, a board member and the chairwoman of the SCF. Her willingness to continue to serve the SCF is very much appreciated.'

The well-attended AGM, held in Inverness, was initiated with a talk by Jim Hume, convener of the National Rural Mental Health Forum.

'This is a very important subject,' Mr Smith said, 'and the talk by Jim was well received, with a lively discussion following.'

'The AGM received the company accounts, showing, we are happy to say, that the SCF is solvent and has a secure financial reserve. Retaining members and recruiting new members is always on top of the agenda.'

'The SCF is the only organisation solely dedicated to campaigning for crofters and we have a great deal to do in the following year working for our membership.'

'We call on all crofters to join the collective voice for crofting.'



John Bannister with Scottish Crofting Federation chairman Russell Smith and Patrick Krause, chief executive.



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Scottish builders bounce back

Scottish construction firms enjoyed strong growth in the first quarter of 2018, according to the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) Scotland.

Key results from the FMB's latest survey, which is the only quarterly assessment of the UK-wide SME construction sector, include:

- In terms of workloads, expected workloads and enquiries, the overall indicator for the performance of Scottish construction SMEs, rose 19 per cent in Q1 2018 compared with the previous quarter, to +7 per cent;
- More construction SMEs

predict rising workloads in the following three months, up from 38 per cent in the previous quarter to 49 per cent in Q1 2018;

- 90 per cent of builders reported increasing material prices in Q1 2018 – this is the highest reading on record;
- More than half (58 per cent) of construction SMEs are struggling to hire bricklayers and 55 per cent are struggling to hire carpenters and joiners;
- Two-thirds (66 per cent) of construction SMEs expect salaries and wages to increase during the next six months, up from 62

per cent in the previous quarter.

Gordon Nelson, director of FMB Scotland, said: 'Some of these results are all the more welcome given that the sector is up against considerable headwinds being created by rising material costs and the scarcity of skilled tradespeople.'

'That being said, construction bosses will be taking nothing for granted as there are stormy waters ahead for Scottish construction SMEs. The introduction of new income tax rates and bands, which came into effect in Scotland in April, means that almost half of

the population are paying more income tax now than their counterparts south of the border. The prospects of many construction SMEs are determined by levels of consumer confidence and spending power. We will wait with baited breath as many Scottish home owners adjust to how the new tax rates impact on their household budgets. The tax rates may well impact how willing home owners are to commission projects such as a new kitchen, bathroom or extension – the life blood of the SME builder. This may stifle the growth experienced in the first three months.'



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If you're interested or just want to find out more information first, then get in touch with me, Simon Reynolds, either by e-mail or letter at the addresses below.

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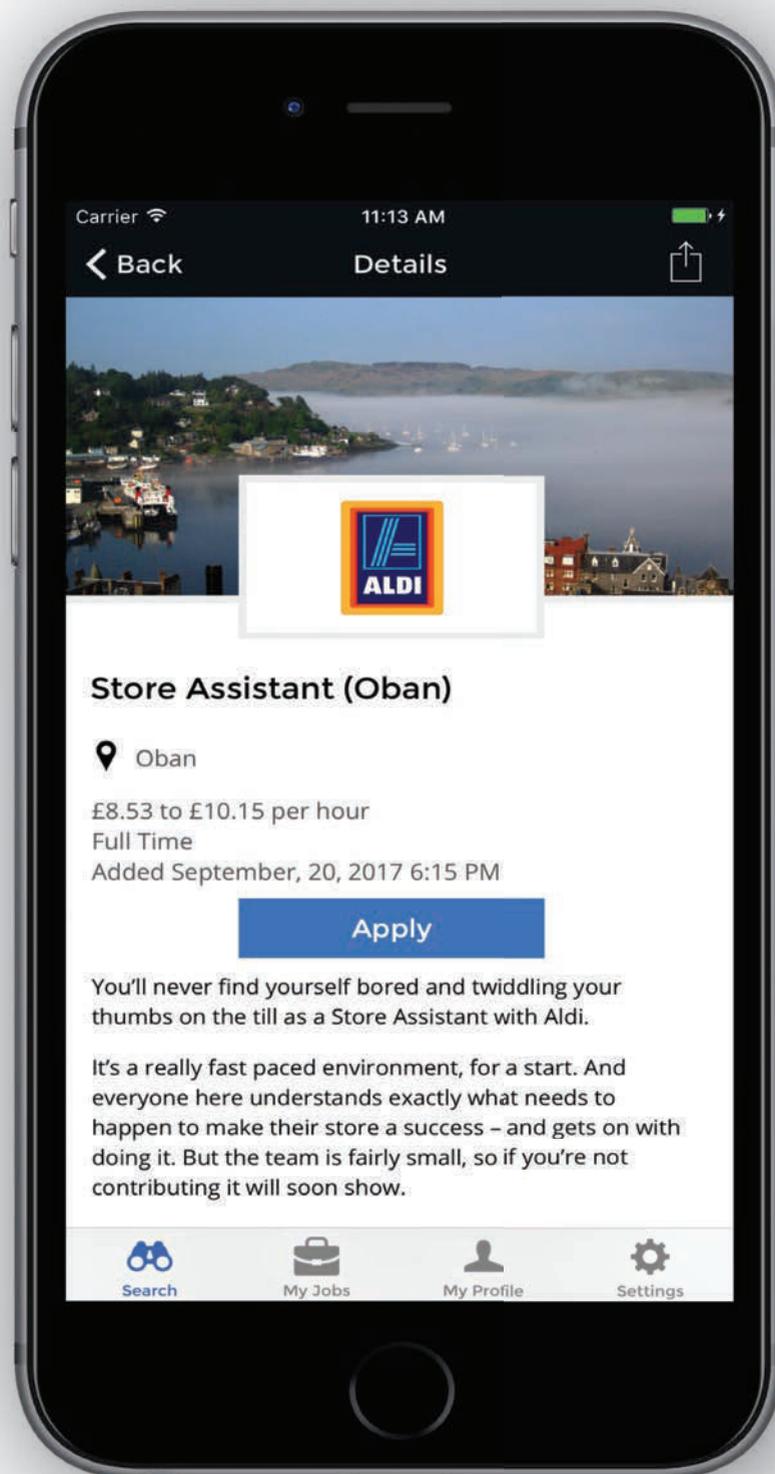
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Isuzu pickup fleet conversions showcased at CV Show 2018

Birmingham April 26 2018 – Isuzu UK showcased award-winning D-Max conversions at CV Show 2018, following significant fleet partnerships in first quarter of 2018.

Positioned at the forefront of the Isuzu stand, the two conversion models based on the D-Max Utility showcased the versatility of the award-winning pickup, which makes it ideal for professional and industry fleets.

The Isuzu pickups are proving popular with both large and small businesses, with bespoke fleet partnership options which suit individual business needs. More recent partnerships in the first quarter of 2018 include deals with Western Power, BT Openreach and the RAC, which see the D-Max variants decaled and converted for bespoke use.

Also showcased on conversion partner stands at the CV Show; Gentilli, Cumberland and Strongs; the D-Max provides a solid basis for conversion across a diverse range of fleets in numerous industries. Coupled with its

range of variants, the D-Max is proven to be the professional's pickup of choice, having won numerous awards in 2018, more recently 'Best Workhorse Pickup' at the 2018 Trade Van Driver Awards, presented at the CV Show.

Paul Murphy, Cumberland Platforms LTD managing director, said: 'Our relationship with Isuzu has grown from strength to strength over the years. This is due to the support they have shown us with a variety of conversions and also the time they have taken to understand our needs as a company.'

'You could argue that the Isuzu D-Max is made for the conversion market. This model comes in at a low cost but maintains a very high standard of quality. The light weight chassis and no ad blue makes it perfect for the development of a variety of conversion. For instance, the Isuzu CPL Chipper Tipper boasts a 1300Kg payload thanks to some clever engineering and the weight of the D-Max. It just works.'

Sean Smith, fleet and used vehicle manager at Isuzu UK commented: 'Isuzu pickups are the perfect partners for fleet users in a range of industries. The versatile vehicles have a track record of delivering reliability, fuel efficiency and a workhorse nature which never fails to deliver. The conversions on display at the CV Show are just a small example of what we can offer and we welcome any enquiries regarding future partnerships.'

The award-winning Isuzu D-Max has already had a successful 2018 being named both WhatVan? Pickup of the Year 2018 and Professional Pickup and 4X4 Magazines Most Reliable Pickup of 2018, impressing judges across the board with its workhorse nature, unbeatable reliability, one tonne payload and maximum 3.5-tonne towing capability.

For more information on Isuzu fleet please visit www.isuzu.co.uk/about/why-isuzu/isuzu-fleet for further details today.



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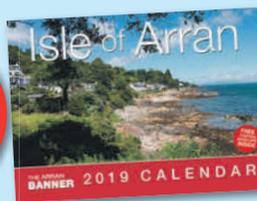
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TELEPHONE: 01631 568000 Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm	FAX: 01631 568001	POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm	E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.
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First Registration of a Croft
John William MacDonald Dougall and Carol Dougall have registered their croft Ardionra, East End, Iona, in the parish of Kilfinichen and Kilvickewon C5199 on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 13th March 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is AO726.

First Registration of a Croft
Jane Marie MacEachen has registered their croft 5 Bunacaimb B, Arisaig and Moidart (also known as 5B Bunnacaimbe, Arisaig and Moidart C5116) on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 15, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is I6071.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED
J Maclachlan
2 Unachan, Kilmonivaig
88207
2.237 ha
Reason – General Purpose
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter
Trevor Robert Potts is applying to divide the owner-occupied croft at 52 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart into two new crofts. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of this advert.

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE – COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER SCHEME

Forest Enterprise Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following woodland properties:

Name: Cologin
Area: approx. 268 ha.
Grid Ref.: NM 844 261
Location: By Oban

Name: Ishriff
Area: approx. 414 ha.
Grid Ref.: NM639 325
Location: Glen More, Isle of Mull

Name: Ewich
Area: approx. 631 ha.
Grid Ref.: NN 361 257
Location: Crianlarich

Enquiries to Forest Enterprise Scotland at communities@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or see our website for more information on the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Argyll and Bute Council
PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgillhead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01249/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 15/00876/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Land West Of Hill House, Arduaine, Oban, Argyll And Bute PA34 4XQ
18/01358/PP	Erection of single storey workshop building	Land South Of Unit 7A2 And Northeast Of Bookers, Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute
18/01304/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land East Of Pine View Lodge (Site C), Barcaldine Oban, Argyll And Bute
18/00989/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment tank and formation of vehicular access	Plot 2 Land South Of Balnagowan Kilmore, Argyll And Bute
18/00988/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Plot 1 Land East Of Balnagowan Kilmore, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

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The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
18/02794/FUL	Tias Tomonie Achdaliu Road Banavie	Erection of house, formation of access
18/02658/FUL	Former Glenborrodale Primary School Glenborrodale Acharacle	Change of use from former school to house. Conversion of outbuilding to self catering unit and erection of extension
18/02713/FUL	Inverloch Castle Torlundy Fort William	Demolition of existing glass houses and refurbishment and extension to former stables building to convert to hotel room accommodation

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE – COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER SCHEME

Forest Enterprise Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following property:

Name: Land at Drynachan
Area: approx. 1.40 ha.
Grid Ref.: NH 289 008
Location: By Invergarry

Enquiries to Forest Enterprise Scotland at communities@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or see our website for more information on the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

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The advertisement features a woman with blonde hair and sunglasses sitting on a beach. She is holding a yellow sun-shaped graphic that says '1 month for the price of 1 week'. In the background, a tablet displays the website 'The Oban Times' with various news articles and a weather forecast. The text 'SIZZLING summer sun offer' is written in large, bubbly letters at the top. At the bottom, it says 'one month access-all-areas digital subscription for the price of one week!' and 'subscribe at www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions'.

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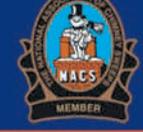
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Building / DIY

BLACK & DECKER ELECTRIC SANDER In Storage Box. Good working condition. Tarbert Area, £15 Telephone 07760761845 01880820860.

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578².

WORKSHOP LASER JIGSAW In storage box. Never used. Tarbert, £20 Telephone 07760761845 or 01880820860.

Cars and Car Parts under £250

FORD KA good runner, no mot, for spares or good island car, £200 ono Telephone 01631 710868 or 07780 960582².

CDs, DVDs and Videos

DVDS Brand new box set of 24 DVDs, Looney Tunes golden collection, Bugs Bunny etc, cost new £58, £17 Telephone 01397 712619² evenings.

Domestic Appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER American style, black with silver handles, £80 Telephone 07766 491388.

Domestic Pets

CAIRN TERRIER PUPS one girl and three boys, both parents are KC registered, will be micro-chipped and vet

checked, ready from 12th July, Telephone 01583 431235.

JACK RUSSELL PUPS black and tan, 3 dogs 1 bitch, mother can be seen, Telephone 01301 703587 / 07703 183105.

WORKING COLLIE DOG 2½ years old, would suits fields. Re-advertised to error in phone number, Telephone 07884 324911².

Farming equipment

FERGUSON PLOUGH 2 Furrow in fair and useable condition, one share loose. Buyer must collect, 50 Telephone 07765 526358.

Furniture

2 SEATHER COUCH claret mixture colour, £50 Telephone 01631 566116.

3 SEATER COUCH claret mixture colour, £60 Telephone 01631 566116.

FURNITURE FOR SALE chest of drawers, corner storage box, desk and shelves. All in good condition. £150. Small double bed 4ft, little used, condition as new, £100. Will sell altogether for £200. Kinlochleven, Telephone 01855 831309².

Garden

VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden dis-

play items. Prices from £30, Telephone 01631 564578².

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40, Telephone 01631 564578².

VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90, Telephone 01631 564578².

Garden Machinery

HONDA LAWNMOWER 18 inch cut in good condition, £95 Telephone 01631 720159.

Hobbies and Crafts

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OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order online at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or telephone 01371 851868.

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BOAT STEERING WHEEL small boat 6 spoke stainless steering wheel. Old but in very good condition. Usable to ornamental. Bargain at £50 Telephone 01631 564578².

KAYAK Dagger Blackwater 10.5 Kayak, very good condition, £280 Telephone 01855 811092².

LIFEJACKETS 8 auto inflating lifejackets. All in date,

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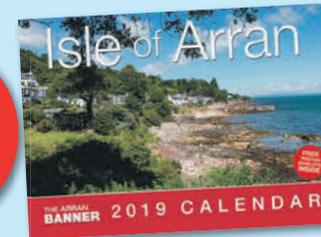
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MARRIAGES

INCH - McILDUFF - The marriage took place at St Patrick's Church, Coatbridge on May 27, 2018 between Ian Grant Inch, son of Robin and Sine Inch, Edinburgh, grandson of the late Ian and Sine Millar, Isle of Lismore and Claire McIllduff, daughter of Thomas and Margaret McIllduff, Airdrie.

DEATHS

JARVIE - Suddenly at home, in his 74th year, Mike, a long standing servant to Glencruitten Golf Club, a dear friend to many who will be sadly missed. A Celebration of Life will take place at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 1.00 p.m. where all friends are welcome. Bright colours to be worn at Mikes request.

MACDONALD - Peacefully in Invernevis Care Home, Fort William on Sunday June 24, 2018, Esther aged 90, much loved sister and auntie.

McKINLAY - Peacefully, at Lomond View Care Home, Falkland on Saturday, June 23, 2018, Catherine Shaw McKinlay, aged 97, formerly of Loch Awe View, Stronmilchan, Dalmally, beloved wife of the late George, much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral private.

MORISON - Marion Seonag Graham, of Taigh Sithe, Portnacraois, Appin. Seonag Morison passed away at Fitzwaren House, Swindon on Friday June 22, 2018, after a short illness at the age of 97. She will be buried in Appin, where she lived for many years. The date is still to be arranged.

PATERSON - Peacefully at home after a long illness, James Alexander (Jimmy), Glenaros, Drummore Road, Oban. Devoted husband to Wilma. Borne with great dignity and humour. A graveside service will take place at Pennyfuir Cemetery on Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 1.00 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Nessie Cameron would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kindness following her very sad loss. Grateful thanks to Dr Flavin and staff at Fort Augustus Medical Practice and to all of Nessie's friends and neighbours who have been close and caring to her over the years. Our thanks to Rev Richard Baxter for his uplifting service and to the staff of John McLellan & Co for their respectful funeral arrangements. Special thanks to all who attended the church and graveside.

MEMORIAMS

BILLIMORE - In loving memory of Bali, taken from us on July 1, 2005. To the world you were someone But to us you were the world Forever in our thoughts Love always - Love Sheena and family x

CAMERON - Mary (née MacPhail). Your presence I miss Your memories I treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never - From your loving daughter Margaret.

CAMERON - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana Annette, passed away on June 30, 2013 and our dad and papa Ian on April 2, 1997. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts - Mairi, John and families.

CRAIG - In loving memory of Johnnie, loving husband, dad, father-in-law and papay, who passed away on July 2, 2017.

Those special memories of you will always bring a smile If only I could have you back for just a little while Then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do You always meant so very much and always will do too. The fact that you're no longer here will always cause me pain

But you're forever in my heart until we meet again.

- Isobel xx
They say there is a reason
They say that time will heal
Neither time nor reason
Will change the way we feel
Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts you're always there
The gates of memories will never close
We miss you more than anyone knows
Sleep tight with the angels papay,
Love and miss you every day.
- Shirley, David, Nicole and Kian xx

CRAIG - In loving memory of Johnnie, a dear brother-in-law and great pal, died July 2, 2017. Loved and remembered always - Donnie, Maura and family.

CRAIG - In loving memory of Johnnie, who passed away on July 2, 2017. One year has passed since that sad day When one we loved was called away God took him home, it was His will; Within our hearts, he liveth still. Always in our hearts - George and Moira (MacIntyre) Blyth and family.

FERGUSON - Cherished memories of Donnie, a much loved husband and Dad, who died June 26, 2004. Forever in our hearts. - Inserted by Ann, John, David and Lorne.

HAMILL - In loving memory of Frank Hamill who passed away on June 30, 2010. Words are few Thoughts are deep Memories of you We will always keep Loved and missed always. - Isobel, Nicholas and Ryan.

MACCALLUM - In loving memory of Donnie, a dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law and papa, who died June 9, 2005. No longer in our lives to share But in our thoughts you are always there. Sadly missed - Elizabeth and family.

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of my dear husband Duncan, father, father in law and grandad who died June 27, 1998. Deep are the memories No passing of time Can take them away. - Your loving wife Flora and family, Edinburgh.

MACINNES - Precious memories of my loving husband Eoghan (formerly of Isle of Luing), died July 2, 2006. It is sad to walk the road alone instead of side by side But to all there comes a moment when the ways of life divide And although you can't be here with me we are truly not apart Until the final breath I take you will be living in my heart. - Mairi, Strollamus.

MACINTYRE Patricia - In loving memory of a mum and nanna, Patricia died 20 years ago on June 29, 1998. "Sad and sudden was the call, so dearly loved by one and all. Her memory is as sweet today as in the hour she passed away" - Julie, Jim, Callum and Ewan.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of Margaret, devoted wife, mother, gran and great-gran, died June 27, 2017. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Donald and family, Oban and Mull.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of our treasured dad Charlie, who passed away on June 28, 2008. Every time we think of you our hearts still fill with pride Though we will always miss you dad we know you're by our side. - Love Hazel and Gordon xxxxx

MACLEAN - In loving memory of my special papa Charlie, who died June 28, 2008. You left me beautiful memories Your love is still my guide And though I cannot see you You're always at my side. - Love always your girl Diane xx

MACLEAN - In loving memory of my dad (Charlie) who died June 28, 2008. Always on my mind Forever in my heart. - Ann.

MACLELLAN - Precious memories of our very dear brother James (Jimmy), who passed away July 4, 2017 aged 78 years. Treasured uncle, great uncle and loving godparent. In our hearts you will always stay

Loved and remembered every day The flowers in heaven must be beautiful With you tending them there. - From dear sister Jean and all the family at home and away.

REID - In loving memory of my beloved husband Alasdair, who passed away June 27, 2009. Always in my thoughts, forever in my heart. - Ann.



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Mallaig volunteer receives High Life Highland award



A Mallaig Volunteers is among the top performing volunteers recognised by High Life Highland last Thursday at its annual award ceremony.

The event saw volunteers from across the Highlands recognised for significant contributions to the charity, its clients and customers.

Chairman of the charity's board, Donald McLachlan, recognised

the importance of volunteers to the charity, saying: 'HLH hugely values the contribution made by its volunteers and is privileged to have more than 1,700 volunteers, who work tirelessly, week in and week out to assist our staff in delivering a wide range of activities in and around our communities throughout the Highlands.

'We literally could not deliver the

wide range and number of services without their help.'

Among the volunteer award winners were John Gilles, from Mallaig, who is a volunteer with Active Schools.

Until five years ago, shinty had not been played in Mallaig for around 20 years but when John moved there he changed that and, working alongside the local Active

School Co-ordinator, it is now a thriving sport thanks to the work he has put in developing and training young players.

John has a real passion for shinty and leads weekly training sessions for primary pupils with, at last count, 36 youngsters, enabling them to learn and play the sport, and encouraging them to then mentor those coming up behind.

THOUGHT for the week

I am writing this week's contribution at 40,000 feet in the air with Ros, my wife, on our way to visit our son and his family in Ontario, Canada.

It reminds me of the joy we will experience when we meet shortly, followed two or three weeks later by the anguish we will feel when we part. It doesn't seem to get any easier the more we do it!

There is a strong emotional thread that unites us and produces these responses. I know that for some people, family life can be really difficult but there can be moments of reconciliation that break through the years of estrangement.

If it were not the case, why are there so many TV programmes that try to help restore family connections?

One of the things that Jesus sought to enable was the sense of unity that comes from broken relationships being restored. His life, death and resurrection created the way to our being reunited with God because Jesus took upon himself all the wrongdoing and shame that was and is our responsibility and gave up his life so that it could be forgiven.

Could this be the time to be reconciled to God and seek the freedom and joy of a restored relationship?

Ian McFarlane,
Oban Baptist Church.



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OT

GOLF



John Taylor presents the trophy to Geo Adam, Gordon McColl and Paul McKenzie.

Highland Arts Texas Scramble at Isle of Seil

Geo Adam, Gordon McColl and Paul MacKenzie won the annual Highland Arts Texas Scramble Tournament held at Isle of Seil Golf Club on Sunday June 24 with a score of 57.8.

Second were John Taylor, Ian Galloway and Bill Dempster with a score of 62.5.

Third was Dave Moody, Peter Hines and Isabel Smith with a score of 69.2.

The longest drive prize went to Janice Mitchell and Geo Adam. Nearest the pin was George Hannah and Geo Adam. Birdie putts were John Taylor and Geo Adam.

The course was in excellent condition with the sun shining all day. The after-match refreshments were provided by Moira Taylor and Isabel Smith.

SQUASH

Invincibles top Glensanda mini squash team league

The third round of the Glensanda annual squash team league took place recently at Atlantis Leisure.

The six Oban teams taking part provided a great night of exciting matches to watch. Thanks went to everyone for helping with the refereeing, especially Keith Oversby for giving up his time to referee matches and also to Donald MacLean for sponsoring the balls.

Results:

- Willie's Wonkas beat Paul's - Nickers 11-8
- The Magnificent 7 beat Kelly's Heroes 14-7
- Invincibles (who played their joker) beat The Hot Shots 30-2

Oban Squash League as at June 5

	F	A	Diff	Joker	Pts
Invincibles	51	19	50	Yes	51
The Hot Shots	37	11	-5	Yes	37
Willie's Wonkas	32	25	+7	No	32
The Mag 7	31	37	-6	No	31
Paul's - Nickers	29	28	+1	No	29
Kelly's Heroes	15	44	-29	No	15

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Badminton makes a big racket in Oban High School

Following an appeal in The Oban Times last December Oban High School has now taken delivery of 15 new trophies and shields for its annual OHS Badminton Championship.

With the number of pupils entering the competition now more than 80 pupils for the U14, U16 and U19 boys and girls, events PE teacher Denise Gemmell felt it was worth a try to ask the community for help.

Denise explained: 'The tournament has been running for many years with the winners representing the region in the Argyll and Bute Secondary Schools competition. Last year we even had five pupils from Oban High School representing Argyll and Bute in the Scottish Schools National Badminton Competition.

'We always have a huge entry and competition is fierce. We just felt that it would be fitting for our pupils to receive a trophy for their achievements and have their name engraved and displayed for years to come.

'We are so grateful to everyone involved in donating the trophies and we are delighted that so many pupils will have the opportunity to compete for these trophies in the future.'

Former Oban High PE teacher Moira Barbour donated trophies for the U14 and U16 boys singles in the name of her two sons Stuart and



Left to right, back row, Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain, PE teacher Denise Gemmell, former PE teacher Moira Barbour, retired PE teacher Liz Clunie, ABCD's Alfie MacKenzie and Andy Henderson, with members of Oban High School Badminton Club.

Cameron Barbour who had played badminton at regional and national level and were both former pupils.

While in her teaching post in OHS it was Moira who helped secure the Argyll and Bute regional Badminton competition for the Scottish Schools event.

Another former OHS PE teacher and badminton player Liz Clunie also put a successful bid into Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) to fund the remain-

ing awards. ABCD's Andy Henderson said it was 'delighted to present the Oban High School Badminton Club with 10 new trophies for its annual competitions'.

'The trophies and will be awarded to the winners in different age groups year after year.

'The ABCD trustees are keen to support and encourage this sort of venture, because we know that activities of all sorts that promote regular physical exercise,

BADMINTON

started young, and continued into adult life are the best way of helping to prevent cardiovascular disease in later life.

'We wish the OHS badminton club every success, and hope that it goes from strength to strength, attracting students at the school to take up the sport and to enjoy the wonderful facilities in the new school where it has six superb badminton courts.'

Love takes Lochaber squash championship

SQUASH

The annual club championships of Lochaber Squash Club took place on Saturday June 23 at Lochaber Leisure Centre.

Alan Love is club champion, following in his father's footsteps.

Bruce Love was champion for many years.

Alan beat Neil Worsdall to take the title. Neil had just played a tough semi-final and couldn't hold off the younger man.

Kenny Mann, also a badminton player, beat Lance Marshall, in the final of the plate competition.





Prizewinners and competitors at last year's West Highland Tennis Week.

Anyone for a game of tennis?

The West Highland Tennis Tournament 'hits' off this Sunday with a full programme of tennis for a week, including local events at the beginning, and a championship competition from Friday to Sunday.

The local events at Atlantis Leisure's courts include an Argyll Day starting at 10am on Sunday July 1, when players from around the county can join for fun and competitive matches, followed by a Mix and Match Monday, handicap singles on Tuesday, and then, again starting at 6pm, Wimbledon

Wednesday, when players are invited to wear 'Wimbledon whites' - where at least one white item is required.

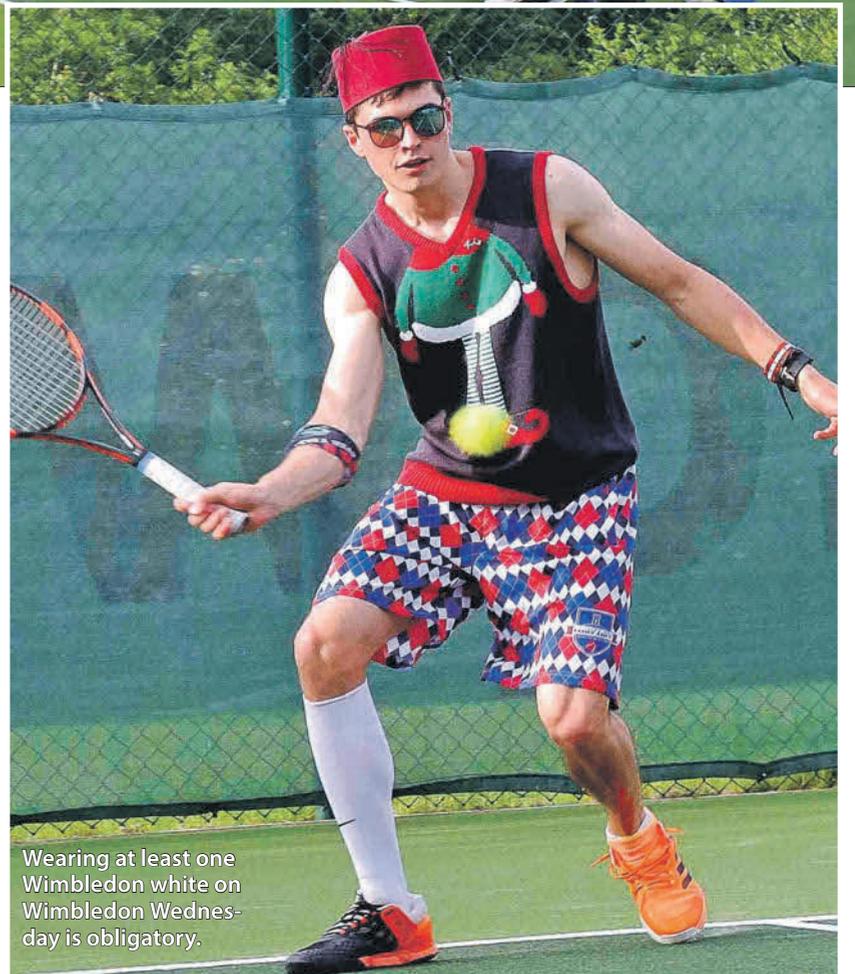
The local events aim to welcome players of all abilities and are open to locals, tennis club members and visitors to the town. Full details can be found at Atlantis Leisure.

The championship events, which run from Friday to Sunday July 6-8 at Atlantis Leisure in Oban and Taynuilt Sports Club, attract top ranked players from across the UK and also welcomes squads from Texas and Liverpool.

TENNIS

The West Highland Open Tournament is now one of six events in 2018 that will be a Tennis Scotland 1000 Series Event and will form part of the Tennis Scotland Open Tour. Ranking points players receive from the men's and women's singles will count towards the TS Open Tour Leader Board with the top players qualifying for the Tennis Scotland Open Tour Masters Event in December.

More details can be found on the Tennis Scotland website.



Wearing at least one Wimbledon white on Wimbledon Wednesday is obligatory.



Winners from last year's tournament.



Target tennis at Atlantis Leisure last year.

OT

GOLF



Dalmally Golf Club - looking for support

Appeal for support from Dalmally Golf Club

An appeal has been made by Dalmally Golf Club for organisations and businesses to support its forthcoming competitions.

Over the next few months, the club is hosting a number of open events, in which Argyll organisations and businesses are invited to take part.

Club match secretary Tony Graham said: 'Dalmally is a small club at the heart of the community. We are run by volunteers, who not only manage the club but are actively involved in all aspects of it – greenkeeping, running the clubhouse, maintaining machinery, coaching and competition organising.

'We are particularly proud of our work raising funds for charity, coaching for young people and sharing our facilities and equipment with local community organisations.

'We are keen to involve local businesses and not-for-profit organisations to take part in our open competitions, consider sponsorship opportunities – for example, we are working hard to upgrade our facilities and make our course and clubhouse more accessible to all – and contribute to our events by donating prizes.'

The next open competition is the gents' individual strokeplay, sponsored by Bay Hotels, on Sunday July 1.

The entry fee is £15, which includes refreshments, but there are cash prizes for the first three players in both handicap and scratch sections. There will also be prizes for nearest the flag and longest drives.

This will be followed by the gents' three-man team Stableford competition on July 22, a mixed pairs open in August and the ladies' open in September.

Tony added: 'Getting involved provides you and your colleagues with a fun way for healthy competitive activity and team building, corporate hospitality for your customers and clients, a chance to network with other businesses, and raises your profile in our community.

'If you would like your organisation to take part in any of these competitions, please do not hesitate to contact me. At each of these events, members of our committee will be available to talk about opportunities for sponsorship and other ways in which you can help us make a greater impact in our community.'

To contact Tony, email dalmallygentsgolf@outlook.com

FOOTBALL

SAFL league structure for season 2018/19

PREMIER DIVISION (10 teams): Alba Thistle, Barrhead Arky, **Dunoon**, EKRR, Goldenhill, Inverclyde, Motherwell Thistle, **Oban Saints**, Rutherglen, St Joseph's FP.

PREMIER DIVISION ONE (11 teams): **Campbeltown Pupils**, Castlemilk BC, Claremont, FC Argyle, Ferguslie Star, Hillington, Kings Park Rangers, **Lochgilthead Red Star**, Neilston, North Glasgow Colts, Port Glasgow AFC.

PREMIER DIVISION TWO (A) (9 teams): Arden, Busby, Cardross, Duncanrig, Easthall Star, Glenburn, Glynhill Moorcroft, Port Glasgow OBU, **Tarbert**.



John McPhee, No 17, in action during the recent Catalunya Grand Prix in Barcelona. Photo: Bonnie Lane

McPhee takes fourth place in Catalunya

The seventh race of the MotoGP World Championship took place recently under the Catalan sun and was favourable for the CIP-Green Power team as Connel's John McPhee rode a strong race at the front and eventually finished in fourth position.

The weekend was marked by numerous crashes due to the new track asphalt that

made grip difficult. John and teammate Makar had harmless crashes during the free practise. John ran a very good session, qualifying in seventh place on the starting grid.

John made a good start and remained in the lead group until the end, alternating between first and eighth position. He avoided the traps and fights between his competitors, taking the lead

three laps before the end, but was overtaken on the last lap. He finally crossed the finish line in a well-deserved fourth position.

After the race John said: 'I would like to thank the team because the bike was well prepared.

'I'm pleased I improved in the qualifying practise and had the opportunity to fight in the head group from the

MOTO3

first lap. During the race, I felt good, everything was under control. In the end, I'm a bit disappointed I couldn't get on the podium but I liked being back at the front and fighting for the podium.

'It's a big step forward that we will be pursuing in Assen this weekend.'

Fort William FC appoints new team manager



Fort William's new manager Kris Anderson

Fort William Football Club is delighted to announce the signing of new team manager Kris Anderson. Kris has signed a two-year deal with the club and said: 'I am delighted to be given the opportunity at such a fantastic club.

'I have worked with some excellent coaches in the past and can't wait to work with the team here.

'My team and I will build and develop a strong squad incorporating the club's fantastic youth set up as well.

'I can't wait to see you all at Claggan Park.'

Kris, 39, originally from Aberdeen, now living in Inverness, is an army veteran of 13 years, and has more than 12 years of coaching experience, most recently within Inverness Clach's youth set-up from which

FOOTBALL

he progressed through the SFA coaching system to SFA licence C, with hopes of taking the UEFA B licence next year.

The Fort William committee was made aware of Kris's availability through an SFA contact and after a few brief conversations and an in-depth meeting between Kris and committee member Willie Edwards, it was a 'no brainer' to make signing Kris a priority as it was apparent he wasn't in it for the short term.

He shared a long-term vision for the club that ran alongside the current committee's vision and, with pre-season on the doorstep – Monday July 25, 7pm Claggan Park – the club felt it was great to get the deal done and across the line at this crucial time.

Magnus helps Scotland defeat Pumas

Argentina	10
Scotland	44
2018 Summer Tour	

Former Oban Lorne player Magnus Bradbury turned out for Scotland in the recent international against Argentina.

Scotland concluded their 2018 Summer Tour with an emphatic win over the Pumas at the Estadio Centenario taking the victory by 44 points to 15.

In wet conditions, and in front of a packed crowd in Resistencia, the visitors scored five first-half tries to put the game out of sight by the end of the first 40.

Such was the scoring rate, the Scots surpassed their previous highest score in the country of 26 points by the 22-minute mark, breaking their previous best from Buenos Aires in 2008.

Scrum-half George Horne scored his first Scotland try as part of a brace and was joined by Blair Kinghorn, captain Stuart McNally and Magnus Bradbury in crossing the Argentine line in the first half.

It was George Horne who set the tone in the second minute after his half-back partner Adam Hastings broke through the defensive line inside the Argentine half and put his Glasgow Warriors teammate in for the try on two minutes.

Brother Pete Horne converted to give the Scots an early lead (0-7).

Edinburgh's Blair Kinghorn

crossed the line shortly after centre Nick Grigg burst through the tackle and made ground inside the hosts' half and then passed wide to put the rangy winger in for a clear run to score (0-14).

Scotland continued to pile on the pressure and it wasn't long before another scoring opportunity was taken.

Fraser Brown, who started on the openside for the first time for Scotland, showed his strength over ball to win a penalty at the breakdown inside the Scotland half.

Full-back Stuart Hogg stepped up to drill a kick into the Argentinian 22.

McNally threw into the lineout, collected the ball on a great angle off the back of the resulting maul and tore through the defence, spinning out of contact to give a clear run to the line join the highest scoring Scotland hookers in history on four tries (0-21).

A penalty by fly-half Nicholas Sanchez got the home side on the board but the hosts didn't threaten the Scots line much in the first half (3-21).

Even the weather turned on the hosts after 20mins as torrential rain broke the evening humidity.

A long range kick for territory by Hastings pinned the Argentinians in their own 22. The resulting lineout was overthrown and Fraser Brown seized on the loose ball and headed for the line.

This enabled the pack to recycle possession and batter the line. After multiple phases



the dam broke and Magnus Bradbury emerged with the ball under a heap of bodies over the line, to score his second try of the tour.

Peter Horne again converted and added a subsequent penalty (3-31).

George Horne and Hastings combined again as the half came to a close.

With penalty advantage close to the Argentine line, Horne chipped the ball over the defensive line, Hastings rose and tapped the ball back for the in-coming Horne to collect and score. The conversion from out wide was missed (3-36).

Half-time: Argentina 3-36 Scotland.

The second half couldn't, and didn't, compete with the first 40 for drama and scoring rate.

Argentina enjoyed more possession and created several threatening breaks. Their improvements were rewarded with two tries from flanker Tomas Lezana and centre Santiago Gonzalez Iglesias.

Scotland, for their part, added a penalty and a try by winger Dougie Fife following a smart set-piece move from the back of an attacking scrum, with Hogg joining the line and throwing a 15m try-scoring pass off the left hand.

As the conditions forced

errors from both sides and substitutions broke up the fluency of the game, Scotland headed for victory having killed the game off early, returning home with a win to bring a curtain down on the tour.

Tour results: Canada 10, Scotland 48; USA 30, Scotland 29; Argentina 15, Scotland 44.

The final countdown to next year's Rugby World Cup in Japan starts in November with the Autumn Tests. The series opens in Cardiff with a new fixture against Wales for The Doddie Weir Cup before three home games at BT Murrayfield on consecutive Saturdays against Fiji, South Africa and Argentina.

The home series kicks off against the thrilling Fijians, famous the world over for their exuberant brand of running rugby and returning to BT Murrayfield for the first time since 2009.

This is followed the next weekend by the mighty Springboks, rejuvenated under new coach Rassie Erasmus and hitting form in time for the Rugby World Cup.

The series ends against Argentina, with Scotland aiming for a third consecutive win at BT Murrayfield after the 19-16 win in 2016 and the nine-try thriller 41-31 the previous year.



The Scotland squad celebrate after beating Argentina 44-15 in the final match of their Summer tour at the Estadio Centenario in Resistencia



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WEATHER

Thursday

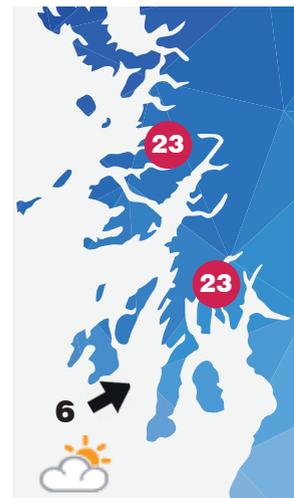
Sunny
Light winds from the west north west
Temperatures
14°C to 24°C.

Friday

Sunny
Light winds from the south west
Temperatures
9°C to 15°C.

Weekend

Outlook
Sunny on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Breezy from north west
Temperatures
11°C to 15°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 28, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	05.35	3.6	12.05	1.1
Thur	17.58	3.8	***	**
Fri	00.20	1.2	06.11	3.6
	12.41	1.1	18.34	3.9
Sat	00.58	1.2	06.47	3.8
	13.17	1.1	19.10	3.8
Sun	01.36	1.3	07.23	3.6
	13.52	1.2	19.45	3.8
Mon	02.14	1.4	07.57	3.5
	14.25	1.3	20.21	3.7
Tues	02.51	1.5	08.30	3.4
	14.58	1.4	20.57	3.5
Wed	03.29	1.6	09.06	3.2
	15.32	1.5	21.36	3.4

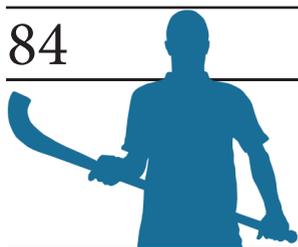
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Celtic Society Cup final at Taynuilt

Oban Camanachd take on Kyles Athletic in the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final at Taynuilt on Saturday. The game will be shown live on BBC Alba with a 4pm throw-up.

Kingussie booked the remaining place in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-finals, Newtonmore made ground at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership and Kilmallie and Glasgow Mid Argyll will meet in the Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup Final following the shinty action last weekend

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round replay

Kingussie 3 Caberfeidh 2

Kingussie won through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-finals after they twice came from behind to beat Caberfeidh 3-2 in their second round replay at The Dell.

A late Fraser Munro leveller cancelled out Graham MacGregor's strike when the sides met at Castle Leod a fortnight earlier.

Kingussie's Robert Mabon returned following a hand injury and started on the bench with James Hutchison and James Falconer. Roddy Young was also back and lined up in attack. Rory MacKeachan was missing.

Caberfeidh manager Jodi Gorski was forced to make a late change when defender Martin MacDonald called off, so Scott MacPhail started. Ben MacDonald was out injured. Veteran Graham MacGregor was on the bench alongside Kenneth MacKenzie.

Colin MacLennan gave Caberfeidh the lead on 11 minutes but Rory MacGregor levelled 60 seconds later. Liam Symonds put Caberfeidh back in front on 18 minutes and that's the way it stayed until 20 minutes from time when Louis Munro made it 2-2.

When referee Calum Girvan awarded a penalty three minutes later, youngster Alexander Michie stepped up to score and win his side a quarter-final tie at Fort William.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Skye Camanachd 0 Kinlochshiel 0

League leaders Kinlochshiel and

bottom side Skye Camanachd shared the points in a 0-0 draw at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye captain Jordan Murchison won the toss of the coin and opted to play with wind advantage in the first half.

Skye started well with Murchison sending an early shot over the junction between post and bar.

Jordan Fraser sent a bouncing 25-yard shot towards the Skye goal but it was saved by Iain MacLeod and turned away for a corner.

Martin Pringle then got away from his marker but his effort was saved low by his left post by Scott Kennedy.

Kennedy then saved from Pringle and Murchison following the resultant corner.

Jordan Murchison then took an Ally 'Cleodi' MacLeod pass and made space to send a shot an inch the wrong side of the post.

Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill made changes on 30 minutes, taking off wing centre Duncan 'DA' MacRae and bringing on Conor Cormack in defence, with Donald Nixon pushed forward into his more accustomed wing centre role.

Kinlochshiel's Keith MacRae hit the side netting in the second half but Skye had the better chances with Ruairaidh MacLeod hitting the post and Jordan Murchison denied as Scott Kennedy came off his line, spreading himself to deny the Skye forward who was through on goal.

The closest to a goal was a powerful Jordan Murchison strike which brought a magnificent flying Kennedy save as the keeper threw himself to his right to turn away the ball which was behind him at the time.

Kinlochshiel's influential forward Keith MacRae went down late in the game after appearing to twist his knee and manager Johnston Gill faces an anxious few days as the injury is assessed.

The Skye defence included U17 players Jamie Gillies, Connor Gilpin and James Morrison along with 18-year-old John Gillies who turned in a man of the match performance. Stewart Grant had a great game at full centre, ably assisted by the tireless James Pringle at wing centre, whilst Martin Pringle and Jordan Murchison had fine matches in attack.

Kinlochshiel missed John MacRae's physical presence in attack and there may have been a MacTavish Cup hangover from the previous week. The performances of keeper Scott Kennedy and youngsters Duncan 'WD' MacRae and



Kingussie's Calum Grant keeps a close eye on Caberfeidh's Kevin Bartlett during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup second round replay.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Duncan Matheson were probably the most pleasing things for the visiting support.

Kyles Athletic 1 Lovat 1

Kyles Athletic and Lovat shared the points following a 1-1 draw in a match switched to Strachurmore.

Kyles played with the wind advantage in the first half and dominated most of the opening 45 minutes but they found Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald a formidable barrier.

Robbie MacLeod gave Kyles the lead on 16 minutes, whilst Lovat had Stuart MacDonald to thank for a fantastic first half stop from Gordon Whyte.

At the other end, John Whyte made a cracking save from Graeme MacMillan. With no further scoring, Kyles took the 1-0 advantage into the break. Lovat came storming back, scoring straight from the re-start. Greg Matheson got away from Andrew King and ran through unchallenged before unleashing a back-hand strike from 15 yards out on the left which went into the

far-off bottom corner of the net. Lovat were right back in the game and were in control for the next 10 minutes or so without being able to get themselves in front. Kyles weathered the storm though and spurned several chances before Robert Baxter awarded them a penalty with 10 minutes remaining. Robbie MacLeod's first attempt went sailing over the bar but referee Robert Baxter ordered a retake for encroachment, much to Lovat's fury. MacLeod hit his second attempt straight at keeper Stuart MacDonald who made the save and cleared.

Kyles lost Roddy MacDonald, who left the field in discomfort, holding his shoulder, after being caught between two Lovat defenders as he broke down the wing. This will be a concern for manager James Perlich ahead of this week's Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final against Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

Lochaber 1 Newtonmore 8

Newtonmore made ground at the top

of the Marine Harvest Premiership when they beat Lochaber 8-1 at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber scored first through Danny Delaney on six minutes.

However, Steven MacDonald turned the scoreline Newtonmore's way with strikes on 7 and 13 minutes.

Evan Menzies got his first on 32 minutes and his second on 45 minutes to make it 4-1 at the interval.

Michael Russell added a fifth with the goal of the match on 53 minutes. The ball was played to Evan Menzies on the wing and he found Russell on the overlap. Russell took the ball first-time, unleashing a cracking shot into the top corner of the net.

Evan Menzies completed his hat-trick, scoring from a rebound off the keeper on 63 minutes.

Drew MacDonald on 74 minutes and Neil Stewart, slamming home a rebound on 81 minutes, rounded off the convincing 8-1 win.

Newtonmore are now only two points behind league leaders Kinlochshiel with a game in hand.

Oban Camanachd 3 Glenurquhart 3

Glenurquhart came from 3-1 down to earn what could yet be a valuable point, drawing 3-3 with Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

Glenurquhart were on top for the first 15 minutes with the energetic Fraser Heath at full forward proving a handful for Garry Lord.

Oban Camanachd suffered a blow on 10 minutes when Malcolm Clark was hit in the eye with the ball. It was later confirmed he had suffered a fractured eye socket. Lorne Dickie came on in his place.

Oban Camanachd equalised with a good goal on 20 minutes. David Lafferty played the ball to Daniel MacCuish who sent a terrific cross-field pass to the back post where Aidan MacIntyre controlled the ball and turned his man before taking a half-swing to send the ball into the top corner of the net.

Aidan MacIntyre then hit the frame of the goal moments later with an almost identical effort.

Oban Camanachd had the chance to go in front on 35 minutes when referee Deek Cameron awarded them a penalty after Ally MacKintosh had tripped Andrew MacCuish inside the 'D'. The normally reliable MacCuish took the spot hit but Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh saved with his feet before clearing the danger.

Daniel MacVicar was sent through on goal shortly after, but his strike on his left side went a fraction past the post.

MacCuish made amends for his penalty miss on 38 minutes when he again surged into the 'D' and stroked the ball home to make it 2-1 at the interval.

Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup

Oban Camanachd were now on top and David Lafferty lofted in a shy which Daniel MacVicar played on to Scott MacMillan who was 20 yards from goal. MacMillan took a touch before drilling the ball into the bottom corner of the net. The hosts now led 3-1 and looked to be cruising.

Glenurquhart, and Fraser Heath in particular, had other ideas though. Heath made it 3-2 on 76 minutes when he took on Garry Lord and then slotted the ball past keeper Sutherland.

Oban Camanachd's Lorne Dickie suffered a broken nose on 85 minutes when he was caught by Calum Smith's elbow during a challenge for a ball in the air.

Oliver Black and Daniel Sloss challenged for a ball a couple of minutes later. Sloss cleared the ball but Black's late challenge caught the Oban player on the ankle. A hospital visit followed but there was no fracture.

Oban Camanachd were struggling to hold onto the ball up front and they switched Daniel Cameron to full back to try and nullify Fraser Heath's threat. However, with just a couple of minutes remaining, Cameron and Heath battled for a 50-50 ball and, with both players falling, Heath stretched and touched the ball across goal and it sneaked in by the post.

Glenurquhart went for a winner during the remaining minutes but both sides had to settle for a share of the points.

The final result felt like a loss for the Oban camp, whilst Glenurquhart will rue some slack defending.

More concerning for Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay are injuries to Clark, Dickie and Sloss ahead of this weekend's Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final against Kyles Athletic at Mossfield.

Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup semi-finals

Fort William 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 (GMA won 3-2 on penalties)

Holders Fort William are out of the Balliemore Cup, losing 3-2 on penalties to Glasgow Mid Argyll at Taynuilt Sports Field.

GMA took the lead on 12 minutes. Jamie MacFadyen gathered possession at the edge of the 'D' and took the ball into the box and, with keeper Paul MacKay coming off his line, MacFadyen played the ball past him to make it 1-0.

Fort William levelled following a corner three minutes before the break.

The ball ended up at the back post where Victor Smith found space and fired into the top corner of the net to make it 1-1.

Fort William had the chance to

MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

go in front from the penalty spot with around 20 minutes remaining but Robert Dunning saved Victor Smith's spot-hit. With no further scoring, referee Des McNulty took the tie into extra-time.

Fort William were reduced to 11 players when Graham Campbell was shown a straight red card during the second half of extra-time for something said to referee Des McNulty.

It remained 1-1 after two hours of shinty so a penalty shoot-out ensued.

Craig Anderson for GMA and Fort William's Arran MacPhee scored the first two penalties. However only Neil Fraser for the Glasgow side and Fort's Victor Smith netted from the next eight penalties.

Fort William had the chance to go through on their fifth penalty but Lachie Shaw's attempt was saved by Robert Dunning.

It was now down to sudden death and whilst Craig Anderson scored again, Arran MacPhee was unable to convert so GMA went through to the final.

Beaulieu 0 Kilmallie 9

Kilmallie will meet Glasgow Mid Argyll in the 2018 Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup Final at An Aird after they swept aside Beaulieu 9-0 in their 1pm throw up at Craighard.

Kilmallie turned in a devastating first half performance to lead 8-0 at the break.

Liam MacDonald proved to be a real handful for the Beaulieu defence scoring a hat-trick with goals on four, 12 and 17 minutes.

Michael Rodger opened his account on 19 minutes and Liam MacDonald got his fourth a couple of minutes later and his fifth 60 seconds later.

Michael Rodger got his second on 27 minutes to make it 7-0 and another from Liam MacDonald on 36 minutes made it 8-0 at the break.

Beaulieu made changes at half-time with Ross Forbes and Robbie Brindle going into defence and that helped their cause.

There was only one more goal in the second half and it was a seventh goal of the afternoon from Liam MacDonald which wrapped up the 8-0 win.

The Kilmallie forward play was terrific, especially during the first half with Calum MacDougall and Innes Blackhall catching the eye along with scorers MacDonald and Rodger.

Beaulieu's marking was poor at times and they were punished by a hungry Kilmallie side.

Marine Harvest National Division

Inverness 2 Oban Celtic 6

Oban Celtic halted a run of five defeats when they beat Inverness 6-2 at The Bught Park outside pitch.

The away side travelled with

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup

headaches in defence and on the wing as Fulton Ronald and Lewis McPhee were suspended, whilst John Hill was injured. Wingers Iain MacKechnie and George MacMillan had work commitments and Craig MacMillan was banned.

There was disappointment for the Oban camp that the main Bught Park was unavailable as it will host a youth shinty tournament during the week.

Oban Celtic made the stronger start and took the lead on 12 minutes when Ally McKerracher got onto a good ball from Neil Carmichael and evaded a tackle before blasting home an unstoppable shot from 15 yards.

The visitors went 2-0 ahead straight from the throw-up when Connor Howe got the ball in space and dispatched a low 20-yard shot on his left side which went inside keeper Allan MacLeod's left post.

The Oban side had the chance to stretch their lead further on 16 minutes Calum MacLean ran down the left wing before cutting into the box. He was taken down and referee John Angus Gilles pointed to the spot. Ross MacMillan didn't catch the spot-hit as he would have liked though and Allan MacLeod made the save.

Iain MacFarlane returned to the Oban Celtic goal and was a spectator during the first half, bar saving well from a sweet James Cameron 20-yarder with Andy MacDonald, Ross MacMillan, Michael MacKinnon and David Hill keeping the home forwards quiet.

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon asked his players for more of the same in the second half and the pattern of play continued towards the Inverness goal after the restart.

Daniel MacMillan added a third on 50 minutes when he peeled away from his marker after good play from Connor Howe and Ally McKerracher. MacMillan blasted the ball home from 15 yards and the goal allowed Celtic to make changes with David Martin, Calum MacLeod and Kenny Wotherspoon coming on for Daniel MacMillan, Daniel Madej and Calum MacLean.

Daniel MacMillan got his second on 54 minutes when he collected a good ball from Connor Howe and shot into the roof of the net from the Oban left.

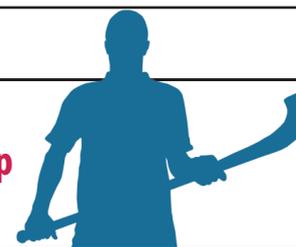
Kenny Wotherspoon put gloss on his weekend when he made it 5-0 on the hour mark. Wotherspoon stopped a ball from Andy Hunt and took a touch to the side of Ewan Neilson before striking a shot, low and hard, which beat Allan MacLeod to his right.

There were a few heated exchanges between the players and Inverness midfielder Craig Nicolson was first to find his name in the referee's book for a deliberate trip.

Calum MacLean, back on the field, was then yellow-carded for retaliation.

Inverness pulled a goal back on 65 minutes with James Cameron

Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



Kingussie's Savio Genini and Ali MacLennan, Caberfeidh in action.

Results

Saturday June 23

**Tulloch Homes
Camanachd Cup
second round replay**
Kingussie 3 v 2 Caberfeidh

**Liberty British Aluminium
Balliemore Cup semi final**
Fort William 1 v 1 Glasgow MA
Glasgow MA won 3-2 on pens
Beaulieu 0 v 9 Kilmallie

**Aberdeen Considine
Sutherland Cup
third round replay**
Fort William 5 v 3 Strachur

Strathdearn Cup second round
Caberfeidh 1 v 4 Kingussie

Bullough Cup second round
SCOTS Caman P v P Kyles Athletic
SCOTS unable to field a team,
walkover to Kyles

Marine Harvest Premiership
Lochaber 1 v 8 Newtonmore
Oban Caman 3 v 3 Glenurquhart
Kyles Athletic 1 v 1 Lovat
Skye 0 v 0 Kinlochshiel

National Division
Inverness 2 v 6 Oban Celtic
Strathglass 2 v 2 Inveraray

North Division 1
Glenurquhart 3 v 1 Glenurquhart
Kinlochshiel 0 v 4 Newtonmore

South Div 1
Bute 1 v 1 Lochside Rovers
Aberdour 6 v 2 Tayforth
Inveraray 2 v 2 Kyles Athletic

North Div 2
Kilmallie 4 v 2 Boleskine
Inverness 1 v 13 Lovat
Lewis 1 v 3 Lochaber
Lochcarron P v P Beaulieu
Beaulieu unable to field a team,
points to Lochcarron
Strathglass 3 v 4 Strathspey

South Div 2
Oban Celtic 3 v 1 Aberdour
Glasgow MA P v P Bute
Tie to be rescheduled

Fixtures

Saturday June 30
**Scottish Sea Farms
Glasgow Celtic Society
Cup Final**
Kyles Athletic v Oban Caman
Ross Brown
4pm throw-up at Taynuilt

**Artemis Macaulay Cup
second round (North)**
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie
Archie Ritchie - 3pm
Lovat v Glenurquhart
Deek Cameron

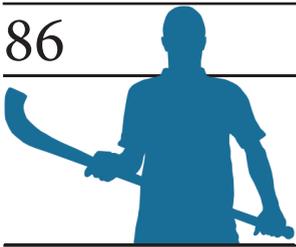
Strathdearn Cup second round
Glenurquhart v Fort William
Brian MacKay
Lochcarron v Skye
Martin MacLean

**Marine Harvest
National Division**
Fort William v Beaulieu
John Angus Gillies
Glasgow MA v Kilmallie
Robert Baxter

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1**
Aberdeen University v Glengarry
Steven MacLachlan
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie
Iain Kennedy - noon

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**
Aberdour v Ballachulish
Neil MacDonald
Lochside Rovers v Inveraray
David Mitchell, 1pm

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**
Beaulieu v Inverness
John Wood
Lewis v Lovat
Calum Girvan
Boleskine v Strathspey
Graham Cameron
Kilmallie v Lochaber
Callum Duff
All throw-ups 2pm, unless stated.



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Continued from page 85

drilling home a shot from the left. Oban Celtic's Andy MacDonald was cautioned for persistent fouling before Drew McNeil received a yellow for a reckless swing. Inverness substitute Jason McLeod made it 5-2 on 68 minutes, capitalising on a mistake in the Oban Celtic defence as he pushed the ball past the keeper from 10 yards.

Daniel Madej came back on to complete the scoring, getting past his marker and running in before slotting the ball into the net with five minutes remaining.

Adam MacMaster played well in the Inverness defence with Ross MacMillan solid at the back for Oban Celtic with his brother Daniel MacMillan sharp up front.

After the match, Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon reflected on a good afternoon's work.

'I'm delighted with the win,' he said 'especially after our recent run of results. I was pleased with the effort shown from all the boys but I give special mention to Connor Howe, Ally McKerracher, Andy MacDonald and Ross MacMillan who returned to a defensive role. 'The win leaves us in third place in the league with five matches to go – and three of these are at home so you never know.

'We've no game this Saturday as it is John Hill's stag do. I wish Ian Hay and the Oban Camanachd boys all the best in this weekend's Celtic Society final.'

Strathglass 2 Inveraray 2

A Scott Douglas goal a minute from time saw Strathglass draw 2-2 with Inveraray at Cannich.

Fraser Watt got the opener four minutes into the second half and Lewis MacNicol made it 2-0 on 56 minutes.

Colin Birnie on 69 minutes and Scott Douglas's late, late leveller ensured Strathglass followed up the previous week's win over Glasgow Mid Argyll with another good point.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup – quarter-final replay

Fort William 5 Strachur 3

The Fort William second team are through to the Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup semi-finals after beating Strachur 5-3 in their last-eight replay at An Aird.

The original match between the sides was abandoned in poor weather, with Fort William leading 3-1.

And the Fort took an early grip of this tie with Lewis Morrison netting on 12 and 19 minutes, either side of a 16th minute Greig Kelly strike, to lead 3-0.

Iain MacLennan got Strachur back into it on 21 minutes and when Iain Wilson made it 3-2 on 25 minutes, Fort William had a game on their hands.

Sam Bulloch completed the comeback when he made it 3-3 on the half-hour mark.

However, perhaps crucially, Lewis Morrison completed his hat-trick on the stroke of half-time to leave Fort William 4-3 ahead at the break.

Grant Disher gave Fort William some breathing space with a goal on 55 minutes and it remained 5-3 until the end.

Fort William will now play the Newtonmore seconds, who they have already faced twice this season, winning one and losing one, in next month's semi-finals.

Strathdearn Cup quarter final

Caberfeidh 1 Kingussie 4

With their senior sides meeting at The Dell in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup, the Caberfeidh and Kingussie reserve sides clashed at Castle Leod with a Strathdearn Cup semi-final spot the prize for the victors.

The Caberfeidh and Kingussie second strings had already met in this year's Aberdein Sutherland Cup and, despite Caberfeidh playing in a lower league; Kingussie had to work hard for their 5-2 win in that one.

Kingussie took the lead on 10 minutes when Dylan Borthwick finished off a good passing move.

Caberfeidh were without top scorer Stewart Krzyzanowski but they competed well and levelled on 16 minutes when Ruairidh MacLennan turned home a rebound.

However, Kingussie scored twice more before the break with a second from Dylan Borthwick on 27 minutes and a Ryan Borthwick goal on 39 minutes making it 3-1.

It took some good goalkeeping from Ian MacCall to keep Kingussie at bay in the second half, although the visitors added to their count with Ryan Borthwick getting a second on 62 minutes following a quick free-hit.

Bullough Cup quarter final

SCOTS Camanachd v Kyles Athletic W/O

The Kyles Athletic second team won through to the Bullough Cup semi-finals when Forces side SCOTS Camanachd were unable to raise a team for their noon throw-up.

Kyles will now play Strachur in the last four of the competition with Lochside Rovers facing Glenorchy in the other semi-final.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kinlochshiel 0 Newtonmore 4

The Newtonmore second team stay out in front in Marine Harvest North Division 1 after beating the Kinlochshiel second team 4-0



Oban Celtic's player manager Kenny Wotherspoon takes on Inverness defender Ewan Neilson. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

at Kirkton. Craig MacLeod put Newtonmore ahead on 10 minutes with the only goal of the first half.

Calum Stewart made it 2-0 on 55 minutes and Cameron McNiven added a third five minutes later.

Calum Stewart got his second 10 minutes from time to make it 4-0.

Glengarry 3 Glenurquhart 1

Glengarry remain in the title race after they beat the Glenurquhart second team 3-1 in their 3.45pm throw-up at Craighard.

The first half finished goal-less but David Rodger gave Glengarry the lead a minute after the re-start.

Referee Iain Kennedy awarded the hosts a penalty on 65 minutes and Raymond Robertson converted from the spot.

Ruthven Goudie Hamilton made it 3-0 with five minutes remaining and although Ryan Porter pulled a goal back a minute later, Glengarry stayed in front for the 3-1 win.

Glengarry trail leaders Newtonmore seconds by four points but have two games in hand.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute 1 Lochside Rovers 1

Lochside Rovers travelled to The Meadows with just 12 players but picked up a good point in a creditable 1-1 draw against Bute.

The Lochside 12 included Gavin Stobbart in goal, Scott McKillop in defence, with manager Gareth Evans also taking the field.

Lochside started well but Bute made changes midway through the second half, adding more experience to their attack.

Bute keeper Kevin Queen made a good first half stop, using his caman to save above his head as Michael MacQueen fired in a shot from the left.

There was a moment of controversy when Bute's Ian McDonald was tripped on the edge of the 'D'.

The goal judge flagged for a penalty but referee Lachie Wood ruled the offence had not taken place inside the box and awarded a free-hit.

Bute had more of the game in the second half and Ian McDonald made the breakthrough on 72 minutes with a super solo goal. Gathering the ball midway through the Lochside half, McDonald beat two players before slotting the ball past the advancing keeper.

Lochside conjured up an equaliser on 82 minutes when Lewis Buchanan slipped a free-hit to Lennon Campbell who was running away from goal. But the youngster turned and rifled a great shot into the top corner of the net from 25 yards. It was a special goal and it had to be to beat Kevin Queen in the Bute goal.

There was a minor tussle late in the game between Bute's Craig MacKay and Lochside's Callum Kirsop and both players were sent off by referee Lachie Wood.

Bute are now three points behind league leaders Kyles Athletic with Lochside Rovers moving up to fifth spot.

Aberdour 6 Tayforth 2

Aberdour came from two goals down to beat Tayforth 6-2 at Silversands

The hosts started well, so much so that Tayforth's opening goal from Ewan Menzies on 15 minutes came against the run off play.

The goal was an obvious blow to the hosts and Tayforth pushed on with Rory Stewart making it 2-0 on 34 minutes.

The second goal gave Aberdour the jolt they needed and Angus Thorburn pulled a goal back a couple of minutes before the break.

The hosts played down the hill in the second half and the wind was in their favour.

David MacKenzie scored from 25 yards out to make it 2-2 on 54 minutes and Angus Thorburn got his second a couple of minutes later to put Aberdour, who were without

John Martin Philips, ahead for the first time in the match.

David MacKenzie got his second on 58 minutes and a Ruairidh Reid double on 62 and 70 minutes made the final score 6-2.

Inveraray 2 Kyles Athletic 2

With the Kyles Athletic second team receiving a walk-over in their Bullough Cup semi-final tie against SCOTS Camanachd, the Tighnabruaich side were able to rearrange a league derby meeting with Inveraray reserves at The Winterton.

This 2pm throw-up brought together the league leaders and the division's bottom side.

Both teams fielded strong sides with veterans Euan McMurdo and David Robertson up front for Inveraray and Innes MacDonald at centre for Kyles.

Inveraray lost Kieran Kirkhope in the first five minutes so 16-year-old Andrew Fraser stepped into the half back position.

The hosts also lost centre man David MacPherson who suffered a nasty gash after being struck on the top of the head by one of his teammates but he returned after treatment.

There were a few injury stoppages for both teams throughout the 90 minutes but it was never a dirty game.

There were chances at both ends during the first half with both keeper making good saves so the sides turned-around 0-0.

Whatever Inveraray player/manager Graham MacPherson said to his troops at half-time seemed to work as his side took the lead straight from the throw-up. John MacKenzie, who was playing in an advanced roll, took his goal really well, beating two men before smashing the ball home.

Euan McMurdo added a second on 59 minutes, drilling a low drive into the bottom corner of the net to give Inveraray a well-deserved 2-0 lead.

But you can never count Kyles out and they came storming back into the game. Their pressure finally paid off when Luke Thornton poked home a rebound after Inveraray keeper Gregor Mather had saved Innes MacDonald's long-range shot.

Brandon Wilson got the equaliser on 65 minutes when he slotted the ball home after a mistake in the Inveraray defence.

Inveraray thought they had won the game when Euan McMurdo volleyed the ball home but referee Graham Fisher judged McMurdo to be in the box before the ball and ruled it offside.

The Inveraray players screamed in protest but their pleas were waved away

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Inverness 1 Lovat 13

The Lovat reserves were too strong for the Inverness reserves, winning

13-1 in their noon throw-up at The Bught Park.

This was the third meeting between the sides this season and Inverness must have been apprehensive as Lovat had racked up 11 goals in their Aberdeen Sutherland Cup encounter and 12 goals in the league match. This contest followed a similar pattern as Lovat raced into a 3-0 lead within the opening seven minutes.

Raymond Rennie scored identical goals on three and four minutes with piledrivers from 25 yards. Mitchell Leslie scored his first goal at this level on seven minutes.

Cameron MacMillan hit a powerful shot from 25 yards on 40 minutes to make it 4-0.

The goal of the first half came a minute later when young Caitlin Mutch found herself free on the Inverness left and hit an unstoppable shot past keeper Ronan MacMillan to make it 4-1 at the break.

Lovat got back in the groove though and Raymond Rennie completed his hat-trick on 53 minutes before adding his fourth 10 minutes later.

Ryan Ferguson got in on the act on 66 minutes when his looping 25 yard shot dropped behind Inverness keeper Colin Fraser to make it 7-1.

Raymond Rennie scored his fifth on 69 minutes. There was a touch of fortune to Lovat's next goal as Ryan Ferguson's mis-hit shot bobbed past the keeper with 20 minutes remaining.

Lovat's scoring spree continued and Raymond Rennie took his tally to seven when he netted on 72 and 80 minutes.

Lovat substitute Sam Whitelegge came off the bench to score a debut goal on 86 minutes and Mitchell Leslie got his second on the stroke of full-time to make it 13-1.

Lovat were solid all over the park and full back James Grieve and fellow defender Tom Collings were commanding at the back. Ryan Ferguson took charge of the midfield, whilst Raymond Rennie proved to be a thorn in the flesh for Inverness, not only through his goals but the way he played the ball off to his fellow forwards.

Inverness player/manager Drew McNeil played well at buckshee back.

Kilmallie 4 Boleskine 2

The Kilmallie seconds came from two goals down to beat Boleskine 4-2 at The Canal Parks.

Ross Anderson on eight minutes and Neil Hope on 11 minutes gave Boleskine an early advantage.

Craig MacIsaac pulled a goal back on 14 minutes before Andrew Gibb's strike on 30 minutes made it 2-2 at the break.

The decisive goals came late in the game. Cam Ross put Kilmallie in front for the first time on 72 minutes and Craig MacIsaac got his second a couple of minutes from time.

Lewis Camanachd 1 Lochaber 3

The Lochaber second team scored twice in the second half to beat Lewis Camanachd 3-1 at Shawbost.

Max Campbell gave Lochaber the

lead on 25 minutes lead but David Cleary, in his final game for Lewis, scored on 34 minutes to make it 1-1 at the break. Lachlan Campbell put Lochaber back in front three minutes into the second half and Robbie Rydings made it 3-1 on 57 minutes to leave Lewis rueing missed chances in the game.

Strathglass 3 Strathspey Camanachd 4

A Keith Callum goal a couple of minutes from time gave Strathspey Camanachd a 4-3 win over the Strathglass second team in their noon throw-up at Cannich.

Strathspey twice came from behind to take the game.

Strathglass made the better start with Ali Rothe netting twice on 5 and 10 minutes.

When referee Martin MacLean awarded Strathspey a penalty on 13 minutes, Donald Colville stepped up to score from the spot.

Matthew Davies drew Strathspey level with a goal on 17 minutes, only for Eddie Noble to put Strathglass back in front with a strike three minutes before the break.

Strathspey, who were missing a number of players, came out battling in the second half and the excellent Struan Ross made it 3-3 on 66 minutes.

The winning goal came with just a couple of minutes remaining when Strathspey captain and full centre Keith Callum scored to clinch the win which lifts his side to eighth in the table.

Lochcarron W/O v Beaully

The Beaully colts were unable to raise a team for their clash with Lochcarron at Battery Park so Lochcarron were awarded the points.

The two points were enough to take Lochcarron to the top of the table, a point ahead of Lovat who have a game in hand and two points ahead of Caberfeidh who have two games in hand.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Oban Celtic 3 Aberdour 1

The Oban Celtic second team notched their first league win of the season, beating the Aberdour second team 3-1 at Ganavan.

Aberdour travelled with only 11 players after a late call-off.

Aberdour took a 1-0 lead into the interval after Eosaph Caimbeul scored his first goal at this level.

The visitors suffered a blow early in the second half when young defender Aòdan Burns had to come off through injury, leaving them with just ten players although he did reappear for the closing stages.

Oban Celtic took advantage and Adrian Cakebread scored twice with Scott Burnett getting the other in a 3-1 win.

Glasgow Mid Argyll P Bute P

The game between the Glasgow Mid Argyll colts and the Bute colts at Yoker will be re-scheduled.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S
JACKPOT
£4500

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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I Robertson
Lundy Road, Inverlochty
B Coughlan
Hillside, Dunbeg



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Magnus helps Scotland defeat Pumas

MacIntyre makes the cut at Spey Valley

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre picked up a cheque for 2,200 euros in the SSE Scottish Hydro Challenge Tour event hosted last week by Macdonald Hotels and Resorts at Spey Valley Golf Club, Aviemore.

Robert, who is a member of Glencruitten Golf Club in Oban, carded rounds of 70, 72, 72 and 69 to finish in 23rd place, two under par for a four round total of 283. The event was won by another Scot - Aberdeen's David Law from Paul Lawrie Golf Club.

After the event Robert said: 'I was happy how the week went. A lot of daft mistakes, but it's a step in the right direction.'

After carding a first round of 70 Robert took time out to do a Challenge Tour clinic with Aviemore children.

Robert now heads for Denmark this week to take part in the Made in Denmark Challenge at Himmerland Golf and Spa Resort.



All systems go for D&K Lafferty Cup Tournament

FOOTBALL

The annual D & K Lafferty Cup Tournament hosted by Oban Saints and sponsored by D & K Lafferty Contractors will take place at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park, Oban on Saturday July 7 starting at 11am.

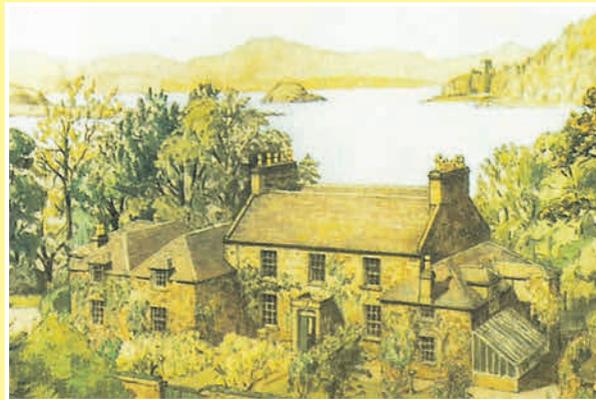
Tournament organiser David Buchanan said plans had been finalised for the 25th running of the competition.

Taking part are Scottish Premier League teams St Johnstone and Hamilton Accies, last year's winners, along with Scottish Championship side Dundee United.

Alloa Athletic have pulled out this year so their place has been taken by top junior side St Anthony's.

Oban Saints' pre-season training is on Mondays and Wednesdays starting on Monday July 2 at the rugby club commencing at 6.15pm prompt where any new players are more than welcome to go along.

New team managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmill say the focus this season will be on player commitment and improved fitness and if they can get this from the whole squad they are sure the football will look after itself on the pitch and hopefully a good season will follow.



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Queen Carla reigns over successful Caol gala day



SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £4500

Glenfinnan traffic chaos

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Cars blocking single-track roads and camper vans abandoned in the middle of road junctions by some of the 2,000 visitors a day flocking to Glenfinnan and its world-famous 'Harry Potter Bridge' are causing chaos for local residents.

More than 300,000 visitors now descend on Glenfinnan each year to view the 21-arch viaduct that overlooks Loch Shiel and the 'Harry Potter' Jacobite steam train as it makes its regular crossings of the imposing structure.

Coupled with people coming to view the nearby monument honouring fallen Jacobite clansmen, plus fans of the television series *Outlander*, it has caused a desperate shortage of car parking.

Local community council chairman Duncan Gibson, who has run the Glenfinnan House Hotel for 16 years with his wife Manja, said May was the busiest month he can remember in the village.

'Glenfinnan has gotten stead-

ily busier with tourists stopping to see the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct, now made even more famous by the Harry Potter movies and it is also used in every VisitScotland advert that I have seen over the past few years,' he said.

'This past May has been the busiest that I can remember in my 16 years here. It is vital that the infrastructure can cope with more people travelling on the A830.

'We are also in desperate need of more parking to stop visitors parking along single track roads, blocking other traffic and also putting local children in danger walking to or back from the school bus.'

However, a community initiative is now being launched in an effort to alleviate some of the problems.

Local volunteers are being sought to help gather evidence of the traffic problems at Glenfinnan in order to help secure funding for a new tourist car park with space for both cars and motorhomes.

Glenfinnan Estate recently secured the area of land between the National Trust

site and the River Finnan – normally used each summer for Highland Games parking – and is willing to lease it in order to create parking for up to 130 vehicles and make a safe pathway across the river to the viaduct.

But for this to happen, the community needs to gather evidence in support of an application to the Scottish Government's Rural Infrastructure Fund.

It is proposed volunteers will take a 'snapshot' of what is happening on Tuesday July 10, with people placed at key sites counting cars and chatting to visitors. A survey has also been launched to gather views on the scale of the parking issues.

Lochaber constituency MSP Kate Forbes, who has met with Mr Gibson and the local community council, said it was imperative solutions were found to ensure a safe and sustainable experience for all visitors, with more parking top of the list, adding: 'I am positive that we can put together a good plan which will create additional parking as well as improve the visitor experience.'

Reading is so Caol...



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon congratulates Caol primary pupils from left, Kayla Duncan of P4, Josie Ball and Lucy Stephen from P7, after the school won the School and Community Partnership Reading Journey prize in the First Minister's Reading Challenge. For full story, turn to page 18. Photograph: Rob McDougall

Allan steps down as government minister

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan stepped down on Tuesday June 26 from his role as minister for International Development and Europe in the Scottish Government.

The islands MSP has served as a government minister since 2011.

Following the announcement, Mr Allan said: 'I would like to thank both the first minister and the former first minister Alex Salmond for allowing me the opportunity to serve in two successive Scottish Governments. It has truly been an honour.'

'Representing the people of the Western Isles is the greatest privilege I have ever had, and my first and foremost duty. My constituency spans 130 miles and encompasses 13 inhabited islands. Balancing my roles has proved more than a little logistically challenging at times. I am greatly looking forward to being able to spend even more time in the islands that have been so welcoming to me since I first moved here more than a decade ago, and that I am now proud to call my home.'

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Morar man 'black sheep of family' after offence

A Morar man who had to return from working in New Zealand to face criminal proceedings after a drunken escapade with someone else's car saw him charged, has been banned from holding a driving licence for five months and fined £540.

At Fort William Sheriff Court last week, Robert John de Fresnes, of Allt an Loin, Morar, pleaded guilty to taking and driving away the car without the owner's consent.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard de Fresnes, aged 23, had described himself to police as being 'steaming' drunk at the time of the incident.

Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir told the court that it was on October 9, 2016, that the vehicle's owner had left it parked and unlocked, with the keys still in the ignition, during a function at the Arisaig Hotel.

'The vehicle was taken [by



Fort William Sheriff Court

the accused] and driven six miles to the locus near to the area where Mr De Fresnes resides,' explained Mr Weir.

'The incident came to light the following morning and was reported to the police. DNA samples taken from the car, mainly from the steering wheel and gearstick, subsequently led to the iden-

tification of Mr de Fresnes.

'As a result, Mr de Fresnes was detained and interviewed by police.

'His position was that at the time he was 'steaming' and as a result could not remember anything about what had happened.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client was

in full employment and worked across Scotland for an Edinburgh-based rope works company.

'He had gone to New Zealand after this incident happened to stay for seven or eight months, but around July last year, he came back from New Zealand so this matter could be dealt with,' said Mr Melrose.

'Unfortunately, due to various adjournments and the three types of forensics reports that were required, it has taken quite a while.'

Mr Melrose told the court de Fresnes had brothers and a sister and was now regarded as 'the black sheep of the family as far as this incident is concerned'.

After noticing the keys in the car's ignition and then driving off in it, de Fresnes had left the vehicle in a parking bay adjacent to his own home.

'There was no damage to the vehicle and it was fully recovered,' added Mr Melrose.

The court heard that de Fresnes only held a provisional driving licence and had just had a single driving lesson.

Passing sentence, Sheriff MacDonald told de Fresnes: 'You took someone else's car to get a lift home and left them without it, causing expense and trouble to the police who had to investigate the incident and no doubt also to the people who owned the car as well.'

Sheriff MacDonald said she took into account de Fresnes had not been in trouble with the law before or since the incident.

On a further charge of attempting to steal a vehicle from a gated garden at Kinloid, Arisaig, on October 10 2016, de Fresnes had his plea of not guilty accepted by the Crown.

'Ridiculous' price for Cuaig land

Kate Forbes MSP has described the asking price of nearly £100,000 for a small plot of land at Cuaig near Applecross as 'utterly ridiculous' given the 'plentiful land' which the Highlands boasts.

The 0.061 plot, with detailed planning permission for a three-bedroom house, is on the market for offers over £95,000.

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch has called for a radical rethink on how the Highlands can rebalance its lack of affordable housing.

Ordered to be of good behaviour

A Fort William teenager who assaulted her partner by repeatedly slapping him on the face had her sentence deferred for six months to be of good behaviour.

Chloe Turner, 19, of the town's Fassifern Road, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week and pleaded guilty to committing the offence on May 6 this year in Fassifern Road.



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Public toilets to stay open till October

A review of public toilet provision in the Highland Council area is under way and is due for completion by the end of October.

Lochaber area councillor Allan Henderson, who is chairman of the environment, development and infrastruc-

ture committee said there was no quick fix model.

'It takes time for ideas and solutions to be found and by working with local communities hopefully we can see a long-term sustainable future for public toilet provision in the region,' he said.

'In view of serious community proposals coming forward and being assessed, we are allowing extra time for the review which has been extended to October 31. This is about working with communities to enable a model that is sustainable and affordable.'

Police appeal after Caol bike thefts

Police in Lochaber are appealing for information after children's bikes and toys were stolen from neighbouring gardens in Caol.

The items were taken from outside properties in Clunes Avenue sometime between 6.20pm on Wednesday June 13 and 8am the following day.

The stolen items include a black and pink Muddy Fox bicycle from one property and an orange Indi bicycle

from the other. Two toy tri-cycles and a scooter were also reported stolen.

Constable Brian Heriot said: 'We are working to try to return these items to their owners and would ask anyone who believes they have seen these items or has perhaps been offered them for sale to get in touch.'

'I would also remind people to make sure they keep bicycles and other items securely

locked if they are being left unattended for any period of time.

'The fault always lies with the criminal for any theft. However, many thieves are opportunists so I would urge people not to give them an opportunity.'

Any information should be passed to Police Scotland by calling 101, reference NP2796/18, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Hard work and effort to improve war memorial

Arisaig Community Council has been working hard improving the village's war memorial.

In his report at the recent annual general meeting, community council chairman Iain Macniven said arrangements for memorial repairs and access improve-

ments were discussed with Highland Council, the War Memorials Trust, the landowner and others.

The project was widened to involve local primary and high schools and linked to the display of the Arisaig and South Morar Record of Service 1920 in the Land, Sea

and Islands Centre. Arisaig Community Trust partnered the council in the final stages of the project. Following discussions with contractors, the Highland Council, and others, an application for funding was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund on May 15 and a result is awaited.

Old Glencoe water tanks set to go

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Scottish Water says it is preparing to demolish its redundant water tanks on land belonging to Glencoe Heritage Trust within days, despite a last-ditch plea to a local MSP from the area's community council.

According to Alister Sutherland, chairman of Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council, the area's local community company – of which he is also secretary – has spent 10 years trying to acquire the infrastructure of the old Glencoe water supply from Scottish Water to secure its hydro power potential.

In a letter urging local MSP Kate Forbes to take up the case on the community's behalf, Mr Sutherland stated: 'We have, during this time,



Kate Forbes MSP

been in communication many times with Scottish Water and I have even offered to go to Dundee to meet with them. They have not bother to answer me when I suggested this.

'Scottish Water has denied

our request... and it now says it is coming to fill in the tanks on July 2 – next Monday.'

And Mr Sutherland continues: 'Unfortunately this situation comes about due to a difference of opinion between the community and the crofting landlord, Glencoe Heritage Trust – a charity.

'We would be very grateful if you could contact Scottish Water and try to get their demolition postponed at least until the right to buy has been explored.'

However, a spokesperson for Scottish Water told the Lochaber Times: 'These redundant water tanks are not situated on Scottish Water-owned land, which means we are not in a position to sell them. We are currently preparing to demolish the structures, in accordance with the wishes of the landowner.'

And the water authority confirmed the tanks would be demolished on Monday July 2.

Asked for her views, Ms Forbes said this week: 'I have been contacted by the chair of Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council about the old water tanks on the land of Glencoe Heritage Trust.

'I am aware of the differences of opinion on what should be done with these assets, and I'm happy to work with any community group to generate new sources of income.'

However, a trustee from Glencoe Heritage Trust told the Lochaber Times that the feasibility of using the tanks for a hydro scheme had been explored several years ago and the trust had been advised by experts this was not a viable option and the idea was shelved.

Schools investment should not be 'political football'

Lochaber senior councillor Andrew Baxter has said the issue of investment in local schools should not become a political football, but instead, everyone should come together to work for a more equitable funding formula for schools.

Mr Baxter, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, was responding to comments by SNP MSP Kate Forbes.

Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, recently commended Scotland's Schools for the Future building programme for investing more than £63 million in the Highlands – but questioned why the local authority continued to have the worst school estate in the country.

She said £50.6m had been invested under the SNP since 2009 in building new Highland schools and £12.5m had been spent refurbishing schools in the area.

The figure means Highland Council has received the second highest amount of all local authorities in Scotland.

But the MSP said despite this, significant investment from the Scottish Government, Highland Council had the worst school estate in Scotland and that she had personally visited schools on the Isle of Skye, Lochaber and Dingwall that were in desperate need of improvement.

But Mr Baxter said Ms Forbes was 'conveniently forgetting' that: 'We've the largest number of schools, many that are small and in rural areas, so the expense of maintaining these schools is a challenge.

'You can't compare the cost of maintaining a school estate in the Highlands with somewhere like Edinburgh.

'It's such a shame there's some attempt to make this issue a political football.

'I would rather we work together for the benefit of the Highlands to make the case to the Scottish Government for a more equitable funding formula for our schools. They seem determined to 'island proof' everything so why not apply a bit of 'Highland proofing?'

New Fort hotel to open in July

Once upon a time, its 'guests' enjoyed far less comfortable surroundings than those who will stay within its walls as from next month.

Formerly the site of Fort William's police station, it is now home to The Garrison Hotel.

The hotel will offer four-star comfort in chic accommodation that is suitable for a variety of travellers.

Converted and operated by Fabulously Scottish Hotels Ltd, The Garrison's room



The hotel will offer a range of rooms and facilities.

types range from quirky 'cells', offering double or bunk bed accommodation suitable for those looking to put their head down for the night, through to standard

rooms and family suites that are more spacious with additional facilities. As well as offering accommodation, the hotel is also home to a 60-seater restaurant.

Driver clocked at 110mph on A82 banned for six months and fined £540

A driver has been banned from driving for six months and fined £540 after he was clocked at 110mph on the A82 at Letterfinlay last summer.

Allan Gledhill, of Drumsturdy Road, Broughty Ferry appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week, where he pleaded guilty to careless driving on August 22 2017.

Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir told the court there were no other cars on the stretch of road at the time of the offence, around 7.30pm.

'Two police constables were

carrying out speed checks with a hand-held device and the accused was recorded doing a speed of 110mph,' said Mr Weir.

'The accused co-operated fully with the police.'

Property developer Gledhill's defence agent said his client, who is 38, was unable to offer any explanation.

'Mr Gledhill accepts he reached that speed on that particular stretch of the road.

'It was a stupid, perhaps outrageous, act on his part. He has quite a high-powered vehicle.

'My client has driven for 10 years and is not normally someone who does something like this.

'It was simply an act of stupidity.'

Sentencing Gledhill, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald told him: 'This was a piece of driving which has been described as outrageous and I agree with that.

'I have taken into account the circumstances but see no alternative to a period of disqualification.

'You will be disqualified for six months and fined £540.'



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Mary's Meals founder visits Lochaber youngsters

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Youngsters from five Lochaber primary schools came together last week to hear a talk from Mary's Meals charity founder and chief executive Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow.

The event took place at St Columba's RC Primary School in Caol and saw well over 200 local school pupils in attendance.

Mary's Meals is a remarkable project that today feeds

more than a million children every single day in schools across four continents.

And although it now employs full-time staff, it is still overseen by Mr MacFarlane-Barrow from a shed in the garden of his home in Dalmally.

Over the past few months, the Lochaber youngsters have been filling backpacks for the charity with each getting pens, pencils, notepads, t-shirt, skirt or trousers, towel, a small ball – in fact the basic items any child needs

for a school day.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow was visiting to thank the pupils for their efforts with the backpack campaign, which was the idea of St Columba's P7 pupil Bella MacFarlane.

Her mother, Claudia, told us: 'Bella had the idea to get as many primary schools involved in a backpack collection for Mary's Meals as possible. These backpacks are then sent to schools, mainly in Africa, where Mary's Meals is operating.

'St Columba's Primary



Mary's Meals charity founder and chief executive Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow shows youngsters a video about where their backpacks are going. JP F26 Magnus Barrow 04

School has collected more than £5,000 over the last eight years and too many backpacks to count.

'This event saw five schools coming together to see Magnus. All of them have participated in backpack collections – Shiel Bus even donated a bus to ferry children from Lundavra Primary.'

During the session at St Columba's, Mr MacFarlane-Barrow showed pupils videos about the journey all their backpacks were making to reach children who needed them.

He told the Lochaber Times: 'It was great to meet with the children, who have been doing incredible things by fundraising and filling backpacks for Mary's Meals. Seeing how enthusiastic and knowledgeable they were about our work was wonderful.

'The pupils I spoke with are a great example to all of us and a reminder that we can all play our part. It's lovely to see them doing whatever they can to give children receiving Mary's Meals, across the world, hope of a brighter future.'

St Columba's head teacher Violet Smith said Mr MacFarlane-Barrow's talk had been inspirational.



Mary's Meals makes a difference to more than a million children every day including youngsters in South Sudan.

'He was really excellent – we were very privileged to have Magnus come and talk to the children and staff,' she said.

'Magnus gave everyone an insight into life in Malawi, India and the other places where Mary's Meals does such amazing work.

'The children here, of course, are very familiar with the work of Mary's Meals as it is our chosen charity.

'Here at St Columba's the children filled 70 backpacks for the recent appeal and Magnus showed some short video clips about the journey

those backpacks had made.' Ms Smith said the work of the charity touched a deep chord with the youngsters, who appreciated how privileged they were in comparison with the youngsters relying on Mary's Meals.

'When they see one of their backpacks being opened and a child in Malawi or wherever pulling out a towel and showing the kind of reaction our children would have to getting an iPad or something like that, it makes them realise how lucky we are here in this part of the world.'



Youngsters listened carefully to Mr MacFarlane-Barrow's talk.

JP F26 Magnus Barrow 05

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VisitScotland moves to allay tourist chaos anger

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Working with communities, residents and community councils in Lochaber to make sure tourism is managed responsibly is the best way of avoiding tourist backlash situations such as those facing cities like Venice and Barcelona.

So said VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead, who was answering questions from the Lochaber Times following his recent visit to Nevis Range.

Last summer a number of European cities such as Barcelona, Venice, Rome, Amsterdam, Florence, Berlin, Lisbon, Palma de Mallorca and elsewhere saw mass protests against the invasion of tourists each year.

The backlash against the masses of visitors has continued this year with local residents angry that the



Malcolm Roughead

infrastructure of their cities is struggling to cope.

But while Lochaber might be some distance from the threat of such serious antagonism from local inhabitants towards visitors, there is continuing concern and anger over problems with tourist traffic and congestion as witnessed in places such as Skye and Glenfinnan.

However, Mr Roughead said VisitScotland was actively working with the industry to help alleviate these issues.

'Our country possesses many of the attributes that attract visitors to Scotland. The Highlands, and Skye in particular, are famed for their breathtaking scenery, history and culture,' he told us.

'A growing interest in set-jetting, where visitors are inspired to visit locations used in films, has helped raise awareness of Skye and Lochaber's tourism offering to audiences around the world.

'Visitor satisfaction is consistently high for the Highlands. Our visitors are blown away by the quality of the scenery, history and heritage and the warmth of the welcome and so while certain places are busy at peak times, visitors are still having a great experience.

'As may be expected, an increase in visitors to certain parts of the Highlands has put pressure on some of the more popular attractions,

with some residents and communities feeling the strain. Concerns have been raised around parking, a lack of accommodation and environmental damage. VisitScotland is aware of this and in Skye, for example, is actively working with the tourism industry to help alleviate these issues.

'Through our partnership with organisations like Skye Connect, we are seeking and listening to views from communities, residents and community councils to make sure we help manage tourism responsibly.'

Mr Roughead added that the Scottish Government's recently announced Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund will see £6 million invested over two years (2018/19 and 2019/20) to help ensure services and facilities tourists and communities need are provided.

The new fund will support

a wide range of improvement projects across Scotland – such as parking, camping facilities, recycling points and footpath access.

Mr Roughead continued: 'As we approach the busiest part of the tourist season, when availability is already likely to be limited, we would advise visitors to book suitable accommodation before travelling.

'Ensuring the country's tourism industry remains sustainable requires a sensitive touch and VisitScotland is committed to working in partnership with the government, businesses and communities so that Scotland remains a must-visit destination for future generations of holidaymakers.

'Tourism is one of its most sustainable and enduring industries – we need to continue to work in collaboration to ensure visitors see us at our best throughout the year.'

Labour chooses North Uist woman to fight election

The Western Isles Labour Party has selected a North Uist woman with a strong history of community involvement as its candidate for the next Westminster General Election.

Alison MacCorquodale, from Paiblesgarry, currently works as an economic development officer for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

An honours law graduate from Aberdeen University, she is also secretary of Unison's Western Isles local government branch.

Ms MacCorquodale said: 'It is essential our priorities are represented with consistency, tenacity and focus on outcomes.

'The future of our fragile islands' economy depends on attracting more people here while retaining our current population. I will work constructively with anyone, regardless of party label, to achieve these outcomes. I will be a candidate who listens to and acts on behalf of the people of the Western Isles.'

First for Scotland as Fort swimming lessons offered in Gaelic

In the first initiative of its kind in Scotland, more than 30 young people have signed up for swimming lessons through the medium of Gaelic at Lochaber Leisure Centre this summer, writes Mark Entwistle.

This is the first time in Scotland that swimming lessons are being offered in Gaelic to Gaelic-speaking young people.

Eilidh McArthur, a young student teacher who works at the Lochaber Leisure Centre, had suggested that swimming lessons could be offered when she realised that there are 11 Gaelic-speaking staff, of which a number are swimming instructors working at the leisure centre.

There are many Gaelic-speaking children and adults who regularly use the facilities at the Lochaber Leisure Centre.

As there are Gaelic speaking instructors with the relevant skill sets, Ms McArthur thought that by offering the lessons in Gaelic, it was a good opportunity to encourage the use of Gaelic.

With the support of Highlife Highland and the Highland



Eilidh McArthur, left, and Mairi McArthur

Council Gaelic team, Gary Davidson, manager of Lochaber Leisure Centre, is delighted with the initiative.

He told us: 'This is a fantastic opportunity for Gaelic-speaking leisure centre users, especially as Bun-Sgoil Lochabar is now established in the area, and Gaelic is being

used in the community within other sporting activities, including shinty, football, and outdoor educational activities.

'We are pleased to be able to offer the lessons through Gaelic as this will enhance the linguistic skills of Gaelic learners and the young Gaelic speakers.'

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Queen Carla reigns over successful Caol gala day



Caol Gala piper Andrew Orr with Gala Queen Carla Donaldson and attendants Lauren Wilson, left, and Shay Coll. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos IF F26 CAOL GALA QUEEN PIPER

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Caol residents put on their finery at the weekend for the annual gala, with large numbers turning out.

A Gala Queen from the 1980s, Donella Lamont, placed sashes on 2018 Queen Carla Donaldson and attendants.

She also presented a specially-made canvas with a poem about gala Chieftain James Russell, who has led the parade since the gala was re-started three years ago.

The queen was driven to the event by Sammy Cameron in his Chrysler 'wedding' car and was piped into the community hall by Andrew Orr.

The crowning took place in the Caol community hall following demonstrations by Nevis All Stars cheerleaders and Nevis School of Highland Dancing.

The day also saw Damian MacDonald of the Caol play park project presented with a citizen award.

In the car park, the gala

committee had hired Herchers fun fair and in the adjoining sports field were bouncy castles, Segway machines and other attractions.

Emergency services took part in a road traffic accident demonstration with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service cutting open a car. The fire service's mobile museum was also open in the car park.

There were the usual burger stalls and bar with outdoor seating.

Craft stalls were set up in the hall and there was a table with details of the survey about how the community would like to see the village develop.

Organiser Kirsty Kyle said it had been the best gala yet: 'It all went really well. The weather was just right without being too warm and the new venue provided a lot more space,' she told the Lochaber Times.

'The feedback we got was that it was the best gala yet. There were big numbers out in support and it was just the perfect day.'



Above: There was plenty of delicious home baking on offer.

IF F26 Caol gala home baking

Right: Caol Gala Chieftain James Russell arrives.

IF F26 Caol Gala chieftain arrival

Below: Roxi Findlay is transformed with some face painting.

IF F26 CAOL GALA ROXI FINDLAY



Fun in a teacup at the gala day. IF F26 Caol gala teacup fun



Theresa, Carina and Samara McCormack on the bottle stall. IF F26 Caol Gala 3 generations

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1980s Gala Queen Donella Lamont presents the commemorative shield to her 2018 counterpart, Carla Donaldson.
IF F26 CAOL GALA QUEENS



Above: Young Nathan McKenna in an old style fire service uniform, following in the footsteps of his father Marty, who is a firefighter in Fort William. IF F26 CAOL GALA NATHAN MCKENNA

Above right: Josh MacGillivray has fun on a segway. IF F26 CAOL GALA JOSH MACGILLIVRAY



The Nevis All Stars impressed the audience with their routines. IF F26 CAOL GALA NEVIS ALL STARS 02



Highland dancers stepped out in style. IF F26 CAOL GALA HIGHLAND DANCERS 02



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Emergency services personnel put on displays and demonstrations. IF F26 Caol gala emergency services

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THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS ANNUAL CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms will be posted to every residential property in Argyll & Bute during the month of July, listing the registration details currently held by the Electoral Registration Officer. It is important that you respond to these forms, whether there are changes to be made or not.

Residents will be able to respond by using **INTERNET, FREEPHONE and MOBILE PHONE TEXT MESSAGE** to confirm or update their electoral roll details.

Details of how to do this will be on the Registration Forms.

These services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the canvass period.

Alternatively the forms can be returned by **POST** in the pre-paid envelope provided.

Electoral Registration for Young People

Along with all adults in the household, you should also add to the form those who will be aged 15 years or older by 30 November 2018.

This is so that they are included in the register when they become old enough to vote.

It's important to provide the information requested; if you don't you could be fined £1,000.

David C Thomson
Electoral Registration Officer

LT



Glencoe museum stars in new interactive map

Car Hire company Avis has launched an interactive guide-map for a new 'hidden gems' one-day road trip from Edinburgh that was created with Edinburgh blogger Sonja Thomson.

Taking in a variety of Scottish culture, the guide follows Sonja as she drives to and explores 10 unique destinations near the capital - including Glencoe Folk Museum.

Each destination has an article with pictures and/or video that goes into further detail.

To view the article visit www.avis.co.uk/inspires/guides/edinburgh-guide/destinations/glencoe-folk-museum/

Historic day as island handed to community

The Isle of Ulva has passed out of private ownership and into the hands of the local community.

Schoolchildren from Ulva Ferry, residents of Ulva and north-west Mull, sponsors and supporters witnessed a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week marking the historic occasion.

The bid to buy Ulva was launched around a year ago when the owner, Jamie Howard, put the estate on the market.

North West Mull Community Woodland Company, whose membership area includes Ulva, applied for a community right to buy under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

The aim is to bring about social and economic development of Ulva for the benefit of the community, with a key objective being



re-population of the island.

Ulva resident Rebecca Munro said: 'I believe the people who live and work here are best placed to run the island.'

'All we are asking for is the chance to shape our own

future and provide opportunities for our children and generations to come. Community ownership offers us a say in that future. And that is what makes it essential.'

A price of £4.65 million

Ulva has now passed into community ownership. The community has ambitious plans to repopulate the island.

was agreed and an ambitious fundraising effort was mounted to secure the money needed. The bulk of the price and assistance with project management for the first two years is coming from the Scottish Land Fund.

Roseanna Cunningham, cabinet secretary for land reform, said: 'This is a historic day for Ulva and I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to the North West Mull Community Woodland Company for seeing the sale through to its conclusion.'

'It can now press ahead with its ambitious plans to regenerate the local economy and ultimately re-populate the island.'

Planning and design services, valued at around £25,000, have been offered pro bono by Moxon Architects Ltd to get the existing houses renovated as quickly as possible.

Welcome letters of support were received from local and national organisations including Ulva School Community Association, Mull and Iona Community Trust, South West Mull and Iona Development, Mull Fishermen's Association, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Woodland Trust Scotland, Community Land Scotland, Turus Mara, Our Island Home, Mull Charters, Development Trusts Association Scotland, Rural Housing Scotland, Community Woodlands Association, the Boathouse Restaurant, local fishing boat owners and other businesses.

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Mòd reveller placed on

A Lancashire man who groped a woman in a bar in Fort William on one of its busiest nights of the year has been placed on the Sex Offenders' Register.

Warren Plant, 50, of Poulton Le Fylde, had denied sexually assaulting the woman on October 21, during October's Royal National Mod, by touching her bottom, under her skirt but over her underwear.

Plant had also pleaded not guilty to a second charge of touching another woman in the bar on the same night, over her clothing.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard two days of evidence during Plant's trial last week at Fort William Sheriff Court.

The evidence also included CCTV footage from the bar on the night in question.

The woman in charge two, who had complained that Plant had touched her bottom while she was on the dance floor speaking to friends, could clearly be seen on CCTV footage wagging her finger at someone behind her and she told the court this was after she had felt someone touching her and had turned round.

'I turned round and told

him 'no' and that it was not alright for him to have done that,' she said.

The woman later gave evidence how she had comforted her younger friend after the second woman had claimed the same man had put his hand up her skirt.

During cross examination, defence agent Alan Gravelle put it to the older of the two women that she could not see who had been responsible, to which she agreed.

'You assumed it was one of the two men behind you but you couldn't be sure which one - is that correct?' 'Yes,' she replied.

The woman told the court in her statement to police she had felt the large handbag she had over her shoulder might have been banging on the man's knee while he was sitting behind her while she was dancing.

Mr Gravelle asked her: 'Do you see that this whole situation might have been just an attempt to get your attention because of that?'

'Maybe,' said the woman.

Mr Gravelle put it to the woman that there was loud music, dim lighting, the large number of people on the dance floor and alcohol



consumption and with contact having lasted less than a second and with no facial expression obvious on CCTV footage that would indicate any purpose of context.

'Could I suggest that the contact was entirely innocent?' he said.

The woman replied: 'No. I don't think anyone should touch anyone else without their permission.'

'I am a young girl - why would it be OK for an older man to touch me on the bum? It is not OK.'

She said she had not had much to drink at the time of the alleged incident and denied alcohol had made things

View From The Chamber



Lochaber Chamber of Commerce represents businesses throughout Lochaber with a focus on encouraging economic growth, job creation and promoting Lochaber as a great place to work, live, study and visit.



As part of its work to support Lochaber business, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce promotes the area to visitors through the internationally recognised 'Outdoor Capital of the UK' brand.

The results are just in from the latest online promotional campaign run through the 'Outdoor Capital' website and social media channels and we're delighted to say that it made a huge impact with our key visitor markets and exceeded all targets for the project.

More than 60 short videos were produced in partnership with VisitScotland to highlight the vast range of experiences on offer in Lochaber.

Short, snappy and engaging, the videos encouraged viewers to picture themselves having a range of adventures from sailing and skiing to visiting historic sites and trying their hand at gin-making.

The Outdoor Capital of the UK has a huge online following and also promotes member businesses directly by e-newsletter to

more than two and a half thousand people who have opted to receive it each month. That's an impressive audience reach for local tourism businesses.

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Gary Innes plays Easdale

Highland born accordionist Gary Innes, presenter of BBC Radio Scotland's Take the Floor, takes the floor himself playing in Easdale Island Community Hall on Saturday July 7, fresh from the Stonehaven Folk Festival.

Innes will perform with his own ERA band, featuring the vocals of BBC Radio 2 award-winning singer Siobhan Miller. The ERA band also consists of multi-award-winning musicians Ewen Henderson on fiddle, Steve Byrnes on guitar and Hamish Napier on keyboard.

Born in Spean Bridge, Lochaber, Gary is a founding member of award-winning super-group Mánran, and has been performing and composing music for more than 16 years. He released his first solo album in 2005 and his second solo album ERA was launched at Celtic



Gary Innes will perform with his own ERA band.

Connections 2017 to great critical acclaim, with Tim Carroll writing: 'ERA is more than one man's reflection, it's a view into the world of a master at work'.

The concert on Easdale starts at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.garyinnes.com to guarantee entry.

sex offenders' register

worse. The woman agreed with Mr Gravelle she would not have reported the matter to the police if it had not been for the situation involving her friend, who had been in tears.

'It occurs all the time and I wouldn't have wanted to waste police time - almost every time you go out it happens. It's second nature in this day and age,' she added.

The second woman, the younger of the two, was visibly upset while giving her evidence alleging that the man behind her had put his hands up her skirt and touched her.

'I felt shocked. I didn't expect something like that to happen. I am sure it was the person behind me.

'I got upset thinking it might have been something I had worn that was the reason this happened to me.

'I am 99 per cent certain it was the man behind me who touched me as when I turned round he was the only person sitting in close enough proximity to have done that,' said the younger woman.

'I now realise it wasn't my fault and it shouldn't have happened.'

The police were alerted after the two women had spoken with bar staff. The two men

who had been sitting behind the women, including Plant, were pointed out to the bar's bouncers and Plant was asked to leave the premises.

The bar's head door steward had agreed the night in question was one of the busiest nights of the bar's year.

He told how a female steward had escorted Plant outside along with himself to speak to Plant and ascertain what had happened.

There was no defence evidence led in the case and Plant himself did not take the witness stand.

Summing up, Mr Weir said the witnesses gave their evidence in a forthright and honest manner under what he said had been 'very skilful' cross examination by Mr Gravelle.

'They maintained their positions. The first witness from charge two very fairly admitted she didn't see who did it; said there were two people behind her and I suggest that points to her credibility,' said Mr Weir.

'There is the CCTV evidence available to draw the conclusion of credibility of witnesses accounts. This only adds to their credibility. Both admit to having alcohol but

given the time periods, they are reliable.

'There is the fact a person was detained by police. If you accept the evidence as reliable and credibly then the accused is the person responsible.'

Mr Gravelle summing up said: 'The band was playing; the CCTV does not show contact being made with the area of the witness's backside. It fundamentally does not and cannot provide any evidence of context,' he told the court.

However, Sheriff MacDonald said she found the evidences of the witnesses credible and reliable - 'I believe these girls,' she said.

'In the circumstances, on charge two I am not satisfied as to the manner of touching, so I find that charge not proven. But on charge one, I find you guilty. I defer sentence for the preparation of a Community Justice Social Work Report and you will be subject to the notification requirements - this means you are placed on the Sex Offenders' Register as from today.'

Plant must return to court for sentencing on August 14 and bail was continued.

eilean eisdeal

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LT

Glenfinnan helps celebrate Kitty's 100th birthday

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

For more than 30 years, Kitty Macdonald was a well-known face in Glenfinnan and that affection was much in evidence recently when her friends in the hamlet hosted a special 100th birthday celebration in a local hotel.

Now a resident of the Erskine veterans home, she was born Catherine Cameron Louise MacLean in Scotstoun on June 16, 1918, as the Great War was nearing its end.

Since she was a baby, Catherine was known as Kitty after one of her six brothers said Catherine was too much of a mouthful so he would call his wee sister Kitty.

In 1946 Kitty married Archie Macdonald who was serving in the British Army's 6th Airborne Division.



Kitty and Archie went on to have three children – Cameron, Catherine and Gillian.

In working life Kitty was post mistress at Clydebank Post Office for 26 years, including during the Second World War, and was very

proud to pass the Civil Service exam when she was 42 years old.

It was when Kitty retired, at the age of 62, that she moved to the hamlet of Glenfinnan, where she lived very happily at home until two years ago when, then aged 98, she



Kitty reads her card from the Queen, surrounded by her son and two daughters, and above, the splendid cake created for Kitty's special day.

moved into Erskine Home in Bishopton.

When asked about becoming a centenarian, Kitty commented: 'You can't stop life from growing. Turning 100 is very special if God allows you to get there.'

And while Kitty celebrated with family at Erskine Home, at the same time, more than

100 miles away in Glenfinnan, her friends in the Highlands marked the special occasion with their own party in the Glenfinnan House Hotel.

Kitty's daughter Gillian Campbell added: 'As we enjoyed a family party at the weekend, her many friends in Glenfinnan also held a party to celebrate Kitty's birthday.

'It was lovely for us all to get together as a family to celebrate. Mum recited a number of poems at her party, including a poem by Christopher Robin. Erskine has been a terrific place for mum and also for us as a family.'

As well as three children, Kitty has eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

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During her special party at the Erskine Home in Bishopton, Kitty made sure her friends in Glenfinnan knew she was thinking of them with a special sign.

MSP Cameron calls for action on college estates in Highlands

Urgent action must be taken to make repairs to University of Highlands and Islands sites across the Highlands.

Scottish Conservative Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron's call has come after an Audit Scotland report highlighted a backlog of more than £163 million of repairs facing colleges across Scotland.

North Highland UHI tops the bill with almost £3.5m of repairs required, while the

West Highland UHI needs almost £1.1m of repairs carried out.

The Sabhal Mor Ostaig UHI is in need of around £3.1m of repairs, £213,000 of which are classified as 'urgent'.

Overall, the total repair bill for UHI's 10 sites tops £24m, with almost £2m classified as 'urgent'.

Mr Cameron told us: 'It's a fact of life that any working building will require repairs, some of which will be urgent.

'However, the sheer fact that the University of Highlands and Islands has been allowed to build up a repair bill of more than £24m, with £2m worth of urgent repairs, is of extreme concern to both staff and students.

'It is clear that the SNP Government has taken its eye off the ball on this, and that its failure to monitor the situation has been laid bare by Audit Scotland's report.'

Atlantic rower tells of drama as huge waves swamped boat

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



An Atlantic rower from Lewis rescued by a Dutch cargo ship after his boat Alba was swamped by waves 700 miles from New York is hoping to return home in days, after an appeal to the Canadian Prime Minister to let him disembark without a visa.

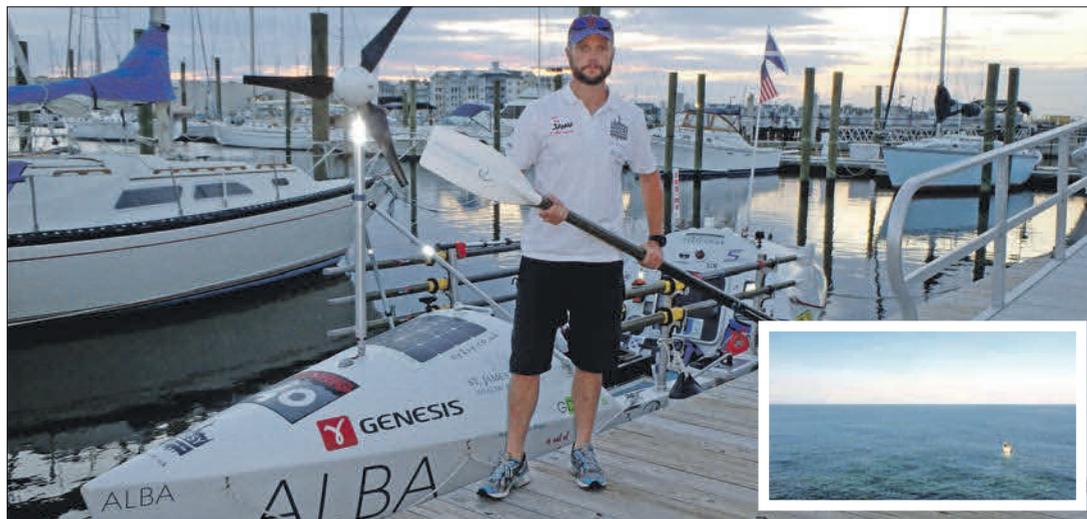
Niall Iain Macdonald, a 44-year-old Gaelic broadcaster who lives on Lewis, was making his third attempt in four years to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean, and set off from Norfolk, Virginia, on May 23, hoping to reach Stornoway in three to four months – and raise £100,000 for the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH).

'Big sea today, too much for me,' he said on Thursday June 14. 'Back on sea anchor.'

But at around midnight, more than a quarter of the 3,400-mile journey home, a wave violently knocked the Alba on her side, before righting itself.

'I was sitting up trying to find a snack from my ration pack when it hit,' Niall said. 'The impact of the wave threw me into my control panel and sent everything flying around in the cabin.'

The wind generator had been badly damaged, and he put on his lifejacket and harness to go outside to check. A 'golden rule of ocean rowing', he



Niall Iain Macdonald with his boat Alba before setting off and, inset, out in the vast Atlantic.

explained, 'is to always keep your hatches closed, as it just takes one wave to cause problems for you'.

'I waited and waited for the right opportunity and then went for it.'

'As I opened the hatch door the boat pitched and water from the flooded footwell started to come into the cabin over the bottom lip of the hatch, catching me unawares in that moment. And that's all it took, that short pause and then BANG!, the wave hit.'

'I got thrown to the rear of my cabin and water seemed to pour in from everywhere. By the time I got myself sorted and back to the hatch

door it was too late, my cabin had been swamped.'

He pulled the damaged door shut by its now only working clasp. 'Then a few minutes later the boat got knocked down for a third time. This sent water washing all over the cabin and into my control panel.'

'The decision to trigger my EPIRB wasn't instant but I knew it was inevitable. My boat was now wallowing in the water at the stern and some of my systems began to fail. I had also lost my wind generator and possibly suffered a breach to my forward hull.'

'I felt a mix of emotions as I saw the strobe light on the EPIRB

begin to flash, confirming a distress signal was now being transmitted ... relief, disbelief, anger, guilt, sadness, regret.'

He broadcast a mayday call using his VHF radio, only later realising the wave had broken the aerial. 'I took the decision to remain with my boat and not get into the liferaft immediately as I felt my boat was more likely to hold its position on the sea anchor whereas the liferaft would likely get caught in the wind and drift rapidly.'

Eventually he could see the lights of the Dolfjngracht, the first vessel to reach him, in the swell. Niall Iain

took one last look at his possessions, abandoned his rowing boat, and stepped into the liferaft – the 'last resort' – and began paddling 600m towards the ship. 'I lost sight of her several times as I slid into the troughs and then suddenly she was just there above me.'

'I thought my liferaft was going to get crushed under her. I was shouting, screaming and paddling, just desperately trying to get away from it. Finally, a wave caught me and took the liferaft clear, just a short distance but enough for one of the crew to throw a line down to me from the deck.'

'For a moment, the side of the ship seemed impregnable until suddenly a rope ladder appeared, clattering against the steel hull.' It was a 10m climb. 'I will never be able to thank Captain Goorden and his crew enough for what they did,' he said.

But when the vessel arrived in Quebec on Tuesday last week, Niall Iain couldn't disembark without a visa.

He appealed to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to help him get home. 'Can you help facilitate me getting off MV Dolfjngracht?' he asked. 'Desperately just want to get home to Scotland.'

On Thursday Niall Iain tweeted he may be able to organise a charter boat in the next couple of days.

'I tried my very best. I just so wish it could have been enough,' he said.

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LT

Skye traditional music contest goes global

There was an international flavour to the recent traditional music competitions held at Armadale Castle, Gardens and Museum of the Isles as music fans from as far afield as Australia, North America and Japan tuned in to the live stream of the event.

The winners of the competitions also had a certain global appeal as a Japanese traditional musician took the top prize in the clàrsach competition, while the piobaireachd was won for the third time by an Edinburgh-based piper, who has piped for bands in Canada.

On Friday, the 32nd Donald MacDonald Cuach piobaireachd competition was held in front of a capacity audience and live streamed to the world for the first time via a video link.

The event involved five of



Riko Matsuoka won the inaugural Princess Margaret of the Isles Memorial Prize for senior clàrsach, while Iain Speirs won the 32nd Donald MacDonald Cuach piobaireachd competition.

the world's most celebrated pipers – Callum Beaumont from Dollar; Glenn Brown of Canada; Dunoon's Alasdair Henderson; Iain Speirs of Edinburgh; and Crieff's Craig Sutherland – who



competed against each other for the coveted prize.

Adjudicator Allan MacDonald said he had been left with a difficult task in judging the competition because they were 'all so good'.

The winner of the competition was Iain Speirs for his interpretation of The Groat.

Iain has won both gold medals and numerous other prizes in competition. He has won the Glenfiddich Championship on two occasions and won the Donald MacDonald Cuach in 2009 and 2016.

Iain lives in Edinburgh with his wife Susanne and their two children. He is head of marketing at Kames Capital, an investment management company based in Edinburgh.

The winner of the inaugural Princess Margaret of the Isles Memorial Prize for senior clàrsach (June 16) is Riko Matsuoka.

Riko was born in Osaka, Japan and is studying for a Masters in Scottish Traditional Music at the Royal Conservatoire of

Scotland in Glasgow.

Her performance included a composition inspired by a Japanese traditional song and featuring both Scottish and Japanese musical styles.

Riko began playing the piano at the age of three.

She started playing the harp at the age of 14.

She became the finalist of the Osaka International Music Competition in 2013.

Later on, she immersed herself in Scottish traditional music and the sound of the clàrsach.

She moved to Edinburgh to study the clàrsach and traditional Scottish music in 2016.

In 2017 Riko began her Masters studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on the Scottish Traditional Music Course under the tuition of Corrina Hewat and Heather Downie.

Wind farm charity funds society's new technology

The coves and blones (boys and girls) of Stornoway Historical Society have joined the technological age, thanks to a £6,000 grant from community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust.

The grant – from the profits from the Beinn Ghrideag wind farm – meant the society was able to buy a suite of new computers, monitors and printers for its premises in Stornoway Town Hall.

It will make the job of archiving and putting on exhibitions much easier, not to mention the task of producing the society's journal, SY Gone By.

Murdo Maciver from Tech Mobile helped set the society up with everything it needed, including three PCs with dual monitors – two in the office and one in the public space to enable visitors to look up archived documents and photos – plus a top-of-the-range Mac for design work.

There were also two printers – including one for printing photographs – and a large A3 scanner.

Installation of all the new equipment was completed last week, at the same time as the society unveiled its summer exhibition in the public space.

The exhibition, Blazing the Trail for Stornoway Women, commemorates Stornoway blones (women) who made their mark in the 20th century.

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Skye and Lochalsh 'hit and runs' prompt police warning

Police in Skye and Lochalsh have reminded drivers of their responsibilities when they are involved in a collision after a spate of 'hit and run' collisions were reported this month, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Officers say a spate of incidents have been reported to police – many of which are completely avoidable.

Drivers have a responsibility to stop at the scene of any road collision they are involved in and if this is not possible they must report it

to a police station within 24 hours in person or by phoning 101.

It is an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 to fail to stop at the scene if it was possible to do so and also to fail to report the collision within 24 hours to the police.

Constable Scott Templeman from the local policing team on Skye said: 'There have been numerous recent instances where vehicles have been damaged while parked in car parks with no details of the offending vehicle being

left and instances where vehicles have been damaged by clipping wing mirrors in the passing and only one vehicle has subsequently stopped.

'We all understand that collisions happen and this is becoming more common place during the summer when the local roads are busy.

'If both drivers stop at the scene of a collision they can deal with the incident themselves by exchanging insurance details. This is then classed as a non-reportable road accident and no fur-

ther police involvement is required. Police need only get involved if there are injuries or assistance is required with the roadway being blocked or traffic flow impeded.'

Recently a number of drivers have been cautioned and charged with failing to stop at the scene of a road traffic collision and failing to report a road traffic collision within 24 hours and are now the subject of crime reports to the procurator fiscal.

These criminal charges would have been unnecessary

if details were swapped at the time. Constable Templeman added: 'We would ask that if members of the public see a collision where one or more of the vehicles fail to stop that they note the registration number of the relevant vehicle down and inform police as soon as it is practical to do so.'

'Then we will be able to trace drivers and carry out the relevant enquiry to have both parties adequately informed to deal with their respective insurance companies or vehicle hire company.'

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Teddy toddle raises vital cash for Star for Harris



Clockwise from above: Young Fraser McAlister was the youngest 'Toddler' at three months old. JP F26 teddy toddle 05; Families had great fun at the Teddy Toddle; Alan and Tanya Ross with daughter Livia look like they are enjoying seeing everyone having fun. JP F26 teddy toddle 03; There were smiles all round from this family after finding their teddies. JP F26 teddy toddle 01; Livia Ross gives the thumbs up to this year's Teddy Toddle. JP F26 teddy toddle 02. All photographs: Abrightside Photography



by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

There was a fun-packed teddy toddle at the weekend which has so far raised more than

£260 for the Star for Harris charity.

Star for Harris helps raise awareness and supports treatment of childhood cancer, all as a legacy for Lochaber boy

Harris Ross, who passed away in 2010 aged just 15 months after a brave battle against cancer.

Harris' parents Alan and Tanya Ross and daughter,

Livia, were all on hand to witness the fun and smiles as families enjoyed the sunshine.

The event started at Braveheart Car Park, Glen Nevis, and lasted an hour,

with the 2km walk taking families into the woods where each child found a teddy to build a den for and then take home. On finishing, each child received an achievement

certificate and snack.

The team at the Corpach Co-op gave a generous snack donation and Liz and Kenny Campbell from Highwinds B&B bought the teddies.



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LT

The release of the open sea

As I write this I am steaming down Loch Linnhe bound for Oban.

The bright summer sun is drenching Ben Nevis behind us and a light southwesterly breeze is caressing the surface of the sea into a rhythm of gentle wave on ploughing boat.

This is the St Olave's first outing on the sea this year and the way she is moving and the happy roar of the engines suggest that she is feeling relieved to have escaped the entrapping fresh water of Loch Lochy, the claustrophobic confines of the Caledonian Canal and the descending depths of Neptune's Staircase.

Heading for Oban feels very different today compared with how it has felt in recent years because last Wednesday, after a long and complex road to reach it, and with much help from some very special people, we completed the sale of the business and an extended lease of the Skipinnish Ceilidh House.

I first moved to Oban in April 2008 to take on the running of the Ceilidh House and from then till now it has been a very significant part of my life, so the decision to sell was not easily made.

We are lucky and very grateful for the surge in popularity the band has had in the last few years and juggling this along with running the venue has become increasingly difficult.

This, coupled with the fact that our lease was coming to an end in

MacPhail

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Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban is now under new ownership.

September, pointed us towards the possibility that it made sense not to renew terms.

However, making decisions like this is never black and white. There were other issues to be considered that pulled us back to thinking that continuing for another 10-year term was what we should do, foremost among them, maintaining the jobs of our staff and the wish that the venue would continue to operate.

So, bearing these issues in mind

it had been decided that we would probably soldier on with the juggling, renew the lease and by hook or by crook make it work.

As it often does in such circumstances, fate and good fortune helped solve our dilemma as a number of months ago we were approached by three energetic young people from Oban full of enthusiasm who were very keen to take on the business if we would consider selling.

They made us a fair offer and after

a complex legal journey, agreements have now been settled in conjunction with the landlords and over the coming weeks ownership of the business under a new name will pass to this new company.

The following is an extract from the Skipinnish Facebook page: 'For over 10 years the Skipinnish Ceilidh House has been a very significant part of our lives and we are very grateful to all who have worked with us and helped us along the way.'

'It has been the catalyst for meeting and working with some of the finest human beings we know and we are privileged to have been part of a great team running the venue.'

'We pass on huge thanks to all our staff, stewards, DJs, musicians, singers, dancers, customers and suppliers, past and present.'

'A particular thanks to Claire MacDonald and Duncan Campbell who have been as solid as rocks since our very early days in the venue and have performed exceptionally to keep things running in our increasing absence.'

On a personal level, I have had many happy and many difficult times in and related to the Skipinnish Ceilidh House and the memories will last.

Perhaps though, after the last few years of dilemma in deciding what to do with the venue, part of me feels like the St Olave felt today having escaped the confines of the loch as the magic, freedom and relief of the open sea awaits.

More news of the new business taking our place coming soon.

Isles MP fights for refugee families

The issue of reuniting refugee families was brought back to the House of Commons last Thursday June 21 when Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil led a backbench debate on his Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Under Home Office rules, adults with refugee status in the UK are able to sponsor their spouses/partners and their children under 18 to join them. It's hard to imagine just how much joy and relief must come at that moment of reunion. But the restrictive nature of those rules, and the limited definition of family contained within them, leaves many unable to experience that joy. Children over 18 are not covered, nor are elderly parents or nieces and nephews. How many parents think their children stop needing them just because they've turned 18?'

'The UK does not allow refugee children any family reunion rights at all, the only country within the EU to do so. Children who have been recognised by the government as being in need of protection, and for whom it is not safe to return home, are not able to be joined by even their very closest relatives. Instead, children have to try to rebuild their lives in a new country without their parents to support them.'

The Bill is supported by MPs from across the House of Commons, as well as the Refugee Council, British Red Cross, Amnesty International, Oxfam GB and UNHCR.

Team takes on Skye out-of-hours care

The rural practitioner team based at the Dr Mackinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford is now providing out-of-hours provision on Skye.

The service began at 6pm on Monday June 25. People should still dial 999 if they experience a medical emergency and the Scottish Ambulance Service will respond as appropriate.

If it is not an emergency but cannot wait until your GP is open, NHS 24 can be accessed after 6pm by dialling 111.

The minor injuries unit/urgent care centre based at Portree Hospital re-opened at 8am on Tuesday June 26.



Buzz about fair trade event on music industry

The Buzz Project's next fair trade event will focus on the music industry.

The Emporium of Worldly Goods will welcome musicians Candythief, Mock Deer and Richard Youngs to Fort William for the first time on Monday July 23.

Running from 7pm to 10pm in Studio 2, 2-3 Airds Crossing, High Street, the panel will detail

their experiences as professional musicians and discuss the importance of fair pay for creators in the age of streaming and the internet.

Each artist will be performing live after the discussion so this night is a must for music lovers, musicians and students.

Tickets, £9, are available from The Emporium or on Eventbrite. Bring your own bottle.

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MSP praises Western Isles lottery team

Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery is spreading the word about its success and how proceeds have already benefited every age group across the constituency.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan met the team behind lottery and also became the latest islander to sign up for regular tickets via the WILL website www.westernisleslottery.co.uk.

Since its launch in August 2017, support has steadily increased and an average of 1,650 tickets are being purchased for each Saturday night draw.

The more supporters who join in, the higher the weekly prize pot rises and the more that can be returned to their area.

In just 10 months, a

total of £53,765 has been raised to date, with £15,300 having been shared out in weekly prizes and £38,500 having been returned to the community.

The lottery is on target to raise £65,000 in its first year. With more supporters joining in at £1 per week via the website, much more can be raised and distributed.

Ensuring a fair distribution of funds was important to the team and a postcode system was devised whereby proceeds of any ticket purchased in a particular area was directly returned there.

Six established groups take responsibility for ensuring funds are utilised as effectively as possible in their communities.

Dr Allan said: 'It's great to

see such a fantastic local initiative take off and flourish.

'With the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery, people can be sure the proceeds are kept within the islands and that local causes will be supported.'

'I congratulate the lottery team on the amount raised and I look forward to seeing if I have won in Saturday's draw!'

Emma Fraser, on behalf of the lottery, added: 'We can only continue to work hard at developing the lottery which, in turn, can only be successful with continued public support. Our motto is "Where There's a WILL There's a Way" – and we have already shown how beneficial a home grown lottery can be to our islands.'



Alasdair Allan MSP, left, with Tony Robson, Janet Paterson and Emma Fraser from the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery.



It was all smiles at the launch of the Library Lego Club in Stornoway. Left to right are Janet Paterson and Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery team members Tony Robson and Malcolm Paterson with Helene Lagrange from Stornoway Library and some keen Lego builders.

Western Isles has first Lego club

This summer will see the launch of the first Library Lego Club in the Western Isles, thanks to a donation of Lego bricks and parts from the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery.

The Lego club will take place in The Space, the new MakerSpace area in Stornoway Library. The space has been created with the help of Scottish Government Public Library Improvement Fund and plans to offer a range of digital and creative opportunities for the community – as well as Lego.

Kathleen Milne, libraries manager, said: 'We always wanted Lego to be an important part of the space as it is such a fantastic creative and learning activity for all ages. However, we weren't sure if we actually had enough Lego to support a regular club.'

'Thanks to the generous donation of additional Lego by the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery, we now have enough to launch a Library Lego Club over the summer holidays.'

The growth of the Lego club will depend

on the success of this summer's trial period which could potentially see the club expanding to other areas of the Western Isles.

Janet Paterson, founder of the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery, added: 'The lottery team grasped the opportunity to purchase a large quantity of Lego with the vision of supporting the popular Lego club concept already available in mainland communities.'

'The new library space was the perfect central location and we are delighted to have worked alongside the library team to very quickly make this a reality in time for the summer holiday period.'

The Library Lego Club will be running over the summer along with some Code Club taster sessions, as well as the opportunity to experience a virtual reality moon landing.

All the events are free but booking is recommended.

For more information, visit the library or get in touch at 01851 822744 / library.enquiries@cne-siar.gov.uk.



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Albert Roux with pupils from Caol Primary School. Photographs: Iain Ferguson. Alba.photos



Young chefs Carla Donaldson and Lola Anderson prepare the entrés under the guidance of chef Toby Stuart.



Plates lined up and ready to be filled and served by an army of willing hands.

Caol pupils impress top chef with skills

Caol Primary School welcomed one of the world's top chefs last week when Albert Roux visited as part of the 'Adopt a School' initiative.

The UK-wide charity educates and enthuses children about food and hospitality and Mr Roux has supported the scheme for almost three decades.

Caol primary is one of a handful of schools in Scotland that has been adopted by Mr Roux and his team.

The pupils were invited to help prepare and serve a meal

to their parents at the school last Wednesday evening and as well as Mr Roux and his team, staff from the nearby Inverloch Castle Hotel, where Mr Roux heads the restaurant with son Michel, including chef Toby Stuart, were on hand.

Caol Primary School head teacher Steven Hamilton said the event was a fantastic success, with the P7 pupils plating food, serving and clearing away.

Toby and the staff from Inverloch Castle Hotel were

absolutely brilliant with the children.

'We had 46 parents and friends enjoying the meal and Mr Roux congratulated the pupils and was clearly impressed.'

Mr Hamilton said as well as helping the children learn about food and the hospitality industry, it was an excellent experience for the youngsters.

'You could see their confidence growing with every course. They just got better and better as the evening went on.'

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Dinner is served.



Above: Albert Roux shares some culinary tips with one of the young chefs.



Three young chefs Ben Fraser, Jamie MacMaster and Arwen MacMaster.

Right: Dylan Stoddart leads the column of waiters delivering the first course to eager diners.



Below: Albert Roux shares a toast with Caol head teacher Steven Hamilton and guests at his table.



Pupils carefully bring together the many elements of the dessert course.

Demand study for gas network

A study is under way in Fort William to find out if there is demand for a gas network in the area.

SGN is working in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Highland Council on behalf of the Scottish Government to conduct the study.

SGN has commissioned independent market research agency Explain Market Research to find out what people want. The timing of the study is being driven by the opening of a new manufacturing plant in the area.

Liberty British Aluminum owns and operates the only remaining aluminum smelter in the UK based in Fort William. Liberty is planning to build a factory adjacent to the smelter to make alloy wheels. Planning permission for the factory was granted at the end of January, subject to a number of conditions being fulfilled.

The scale of this development presents an opportunity to review demand for providing mains gas to businesses and households in the area.

The study is exploratory, no decisions have been made as to whether a gas network will come to Fort William or not – its purpose is to find out what people think to inform any future decisions. There will be a number of ways to have a say on the subject: complete the online survey at <https://bit.ly/2IH9L1j>; join the Fort William online community at <https://bit.ly/2ITo3iP>; contact Darren Wake at Explain on 0191 261 5261 or info@explainresearch.co.uk

Also look out for Explain market researchers in the area and make sure you have your say.

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First minister agrees that is so Caol!



by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon thinks Caol Primary School has done the Highlands proud after presenting pupils and staff with one of her national reading awards.

At a special event in Edinburgh last week, Caol primary was announced as one of the winners in the First Minister's Reading Challenge 2018.

The Caol youngsters picked up the award for School and Community Partnership Reading Journey - National Winner from Ms Sturgeon at

Left: First Minister Nicola Sturgeon happily posed in a 'Reading is so Caol' cap with the school's young representatives.



Above: Nicola Sturgeon high fives two of the winning pupils.

the ceremony celebrating the second year of the challenge

The First Minister's Reading Challenge was launched in 2016 for primaries four to seven and, following the success of the first year, was expanded to include all primary age pupils.

The Scottish Book Trust, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing, delivered the reading initiative on behalf of the Scottish Government and almost 1,000 schools, from 29 local author-

ities, registered. Caol primary was awarded the School and Community Partnership Reading Journey in recognition of its fantastic efforts in engaging the community in the school's reading initiatives. They developed successful partnerships with families, local businesses, their local library and authors and created imaginative, inclusive initiatives to celebrate their love of reading.

Commenting on the award, Kerry Lamont, literacy co-

ordinator at Caol Primary School, said: 'We were delighted to take part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge and have been busy promoting reading for enjoyment in a variety of ways with support from staff, pupils, families and the wider community. We've noticed a huge improvement in many of our pupils' attitudes to reading and hope this continues. We've



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'Reading

all had so much fun working together to make reading 'So Caol' for our pupils.

'Our slogan is 'Reading is so Caol', so we've tried to make it just that with pupils, staff, families and community members all getting involved.'

The Reading is so Caol campaign started with pupils sending in photos of themselves reading in unusual places and there was also merchandise such as banners, t-shirts and caps printed with the slogan.

There have been lots of authors, including Mairi Hedderwick and Barry Hutchison, visiting the school and messages of support from many more.

P7 pupil Josie Ball, 11, was one of the students representing the school at the Edinburgh event.

She explained: 'I really enjoyed meeting Nicola Sturgeon because you hear so much about her on the news and in newspapers.'

'I loved seeing the other awards which schools won. I liked going up on the stage with Kayla and Mrs Lamont to receive our award. It was really good when the illustrator Tom Morgan Jones taught us how to draw. It was an amazing experience.'

Fellow pupil Kayla Duncan,

aged eight, from primary four, who also met Ms Sturgeon, said she enjoyed the event too.

'I have loved taking part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge because our school started a 'Reading is so Caol' campaign which has encouraged everyone to read more.

'We have been using a website called Fiction Express. This is cool because if you don't have books at home you can read books online. We all enjoyed having famous authors visit the school because it inspired everyone to read.

'We got the chance to go to Edinburgh and meet the first minister. I loved looking at other schools' tables and getting some ideas for 'Reading is so Caol' next year.

'I loved meeting the first minister and collecting our prize. She told me she loved the video I had made.'

Lucy Stephen, 11, from P7, added: 'We all liked creating our own songs, Harry Potter day and getting new books. It's been amazing seeing children who didn't like reading finding books they enjoy and reading more than they did before.'

'It was also so awesome meeting the first minister because she knew lots about our campaign and even said, "Reading is so Caol!"'

Sleat pupils celebrate heritage award



Kate Forbes MSP popped into Sleat Primary School on the Isle of Skye on Monday June 25 to present pupils with Discovery Award certificates.

In conjunction with the Sleat Community Trust, the John Muir Trust has been working with children as they compiled scrapbooks and carried out tree and wildlife surveys in the Tormore Forest during a two-month conservation

project. Afterwards the Skye MSP said: 'Awarding prizes to the pupils of Sleat Primary on Monday was a lovely way to start the week. The children were clearly very proud of all they had achieved.'

'These children are the future of our island communities, and there is great cause for optimism in seeing their appreciation of the local environment.'

Glencoe 'pod'-cast sows seeds of love

A giant egg-like pod will appear in Glencoe next Monday July 2 as the National Trust for Scotland invites visitors to tell the nation what they love about Scotland.

The futuristic-looking pod is taking to the road as part of the charity's For the Love of Scotland campaign, which launched in April with a film featuring some of Scotland's best-loved celebrities - from Gerard Butler and Brian Cox to Judy Murray and Evelyn Glennie - describing what they love about Scotland.

Visitors on the day will be



The pod will be in Glencoe next Monday.

invited to enter the specially-made pod to view the film and then record their own thoughts about what makes Scotland such a special place - the best contributions might make it on to the trust's website. It also gives people the opportunity to take a unique National Trust for Scotland selfie.

Mark Bishop, director of customer and cause at the National Trust for Scotland, said: 'We're excited to get the people of Glencoe involved in our For the Love of Scotland campaign and hear what they

love about Scotland.

'Our members, donors, volunteers, visitors and staff help protect these special places for everyone to enjoy and our new campaign will help us shout louder about the important role we play in caring for Scotland now and forever.'

No booking is necessary and everyone taking part will be given an extra-special National Trust for Scotland momento.

To find out more about the pod and the campaign, please visit: www.nts.org.uk/love

Electric cars are en route to Fort William

Lochaber Environmental Group, in partnership with Home Energy Scotland, will have electric cars on show in Fort William on Saturday September 29.

Electric cars are becoming increasingly common around Lochaber and the group will be in the Nevis Centre all day with questions and answers, test drives, chats with owners and details on financial support for everyone interested in electric vehicles.

The low running costs of electric cars, around three pence per mile, make them a

tempting prospect for commuters, while their efficiency over short trips makes them good for getting around town.

Electric vehicles have fewer negative effects than petrol and diesel cars and provide much greener motoring than previously possible.

The second-hand market for electric cars is also developing, bringing the practicalities of electric motoring to those who tend not to buy the latest models.

Lochaber Environmental Group will be releasing further details closer to the event.



A photograph from last year's electric vehicle driver training, where five people got to try out the BMW i3. This September will be a much bigger event.



Pupils proudly show off a display from their school at the Edinburgh event.

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LETTERS

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Tourism – it's about finding the balance

Summer is here, and this year looks to be better than last year – at least weather-wise.

But while all this good weather does wonders for our tan, when temperatures soar, so do visitor numbers. You can't blame people for wanting to visit our fantastic region. But while they are very welcome, they do bring their challenges.

Not least because of the extra traffic. Our infrastructure is just not up to the task.

We need better roads, and we need more car parks. The parking difficulties experienced on Skye, such as at the Fairy Pools, are well documented. But this week we highlight the issues at Glenfinnan.

More than 300,000 visitors now come to Glenfinnan each year to view the 21-arch viaduct that overlooks Loch Shiel – made famous by the 'Harry Potter' movies – and the Jacobite steam train as it makes its regular crossings over the imposing structure.

Coupled with people coming to view the nearby monument which honours fallen Jacobite clansmen, the situation has seen a desperate shortage of car parking.

Visitors on the clock to capture their Kodak moment are parking wherever they can find a space along this single-track road, and that includes abandoning campervans at busy junctions.

The local community is now taking the situation in hand and volunteers are being sought to help with a traffic survey which it is hoped will help secure funding for a new carpark with space for cars and motorhomes.

So if you can help with this, please do. It is vital everyone is kept safe while enjoying our wonderful scenery, and providing good parking facilities is a great start.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



No evidence can be found of reported unkempt gardens

Martin Laing in his column (The Oban Times, June 14) asked ACHA to get our act together with respect to two gardens in a terraced street in Oban that we own.

Despite contacting Mr Laing to clarify what he was referring to, we have been unsuccessful in getting any information from him to confirm that these addresses belong to ACHA.

The association staff locally have checked complaints we have received from members of the public which could possibly relate to what Mr Laing is talking about and we can find no evidence of two gardens not being looked after by ACHA tenants 'in a fairly typical residential street in Oban'.

If Mr Laing had contacted ACHA before he published his article, we could have clarified anything he wished to ask. Lazy journalism which doesn't check out all aspects of the story is becoming increasingly common.

For the record, ACHA responds proactively in dealing with anti-social issues, including our staff working closely with the police to evict drug dealers and those involved in anti-social behaviour. This includes ACHA staff attending Oban Sheriff Court in pursuit of that end.

These kind of facts around ACHA's commitment to community wellbeing appears to be of little interest to Mr Laing.

Alastair MacGregor,
Chief executive, ACHA.

It is important for people to maintain their gardens

It is most important that pedestrians are safe on pavements but, unfortunately, the width of many pavements are being reduced by overgrown gardens, hedges and trees.

An elderly lady on a mobility scooter had great difficulty driving past an overgrown hedge on Lonan Drive in Oban, and was most fortunate not to have toppled into the road because the hedge was growing so far into the width of the pavement that only half the width was available. Another pedestrian avoided a facial injury due to an overhanging tree.

Please ensure garden growth is contained within your boundary so that pavements are available to pedestrians, prams, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Also, if you let out a second home, don't forget that your garden should be maintained. **Name and address supplied.**

Broadsheet format made The Oban Times stand out

As Margaret Lindsay (Letters, June 14) rightly stated, the broadsheet format of The Oban Times made it stand out as special beside all the compact-style regional papers in newspaper stands.

Furthermore, the traditional format gave

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YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

to the content (the comprehensiveness and quality of which has not diminished) the ease of reading a whole subject section, contained within a two-page spread.

Now, in contrast, much searching and page-turning is necessitated by the new 80-page layout.

Of the 14 readers pictured and quoted in the first two compact editions all were in favour of the change. Surely Margaret Lindsay and myself are not alone in viewing it with regret.

Alasdair J S Sinclair,
by email.

Change of heart over the new-look Oban Times

Last week you published my letter about the new style Oban Times and my comments were not too complimentary, tinged with a bit of sadness for the passing away of an era.

Well, I hope I am allowed to change my mind, because I thoroughly enjoyed poring over the new issue this week and am quickly

getting used to the new smaller format, which is much easier to handle. All the news and views are still there.

So, I apologise and take my hat off to you all, and I thank you for moving sensitively with the times.

Margaret Lindsay,
by email.

Changing newspaper to compact is a mistake

Oh dear, Oban Times, what have you done? Once you stood tall and proud, head and shoulders above the rest, but now you're one in a crowd.

In the rush to join the compact brigade, you are in danger of losing the character, even the very essence, that defines The Oban Times in the name of modernity.

Those who wish to access their news through a 21st-century platform should do precisely that, and read it 24/7 online on their tablet (isn't that a sweet, sugary treat?) or other device, and leave

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DISTRICT NEWS

MALLAIG

Mallaig Community Council held its May meeting in Mallaig and Morar Community Centre.

Among the matters discussed were:

Parking: The meeting with Highland Council and the public meeting were discussed and it was felt nothing further could be achieved until concrete proposals were received from Highland Council. Councillor Rixson and councillor Thompson are to meet with the relevant council employees to get firm proposals for Mallaig.

Toilets: A bid has been lodged with Highland Council for a grant under the regional tourism infrastructure fund for new toilets in Mallaig and refurbishment of the Traigh toilets. It was suggested coach companies could be asked to contribute towards the upkeep of the toilets.

Centennial residents: Denis Rixson noted Iain Thornber was the deputy lieutenant of Lochaber and one of his duties was to send a telegram of congratulations to any Mallaig residents when they reach 100 years of age.

He will also arrange a visit if requested.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Denis Rixson handed over contact details of Sharon Dykes, community banker, who will be the main contact for any RBS banking issues when the Mallaig branch closes.

MacIntosh mini bus: Denis Rixson reported he had met with Nancy Campbell who had indicated they were attempting to cut costs by reducing mini bus services. If anyone had any issues about this they should contact Nancy Campbell directly. It was believed that Jacqueline MacDonell was on the Friends of the MacIntosh Association and it could be approached with offers of volunteer drivers.

Community wardens: Denis Rixson had arranged for the community wardens to visit Mallaig and the dog fouling problem in the area had been highlighted.



Highland Council chief executive Steve Barron presents John Gillies with his award.

Shinty coach receives award

A Mallaig shinty referee who turned his hand to coaching youngsters in Mallaig has been recognised by High Life Highland for his contributions to the community.

Until five years ago shinty hadn't been played in Mallaig for around 20 years. But when Camanachd Association referee John Gillies moved to the area, he decided to change that. Working alongside the Active School co-ordinator, shinty is now thriving in Mallaig thanks to the hard work John has put in to developing and training new young

players. Fish farm manager John has a real passion for shinty and leads weekly training sessions for primary schools pupils with, at last count, 36 young participants learning and playing the sport and encouraging them to mentor those coming up behind.

High Life Highland recognised top performing volunteers at its recent annual awards ceremony at Strathpeffer pavilion.

The event saw volunteers from across the Highlands recognised for significant contributions to the charity, its clients and customers.

They had also discussed the large blue waste bins at Tougal and Traigh where there is a problem as the old metal supports do not work with the new bins. There was a possibility of a dog poo bin for the circular walk.

Local paths: The circular walk and Loch an Nostrie paths both require maintenance.

There is a problem getting materials into the circular walk. Denis Rixson had a possible volunteer who would help with the Loch an Nostrie path.

MALLAIG

SSE is giving £1 million to community projects in the Highlands, including £50,000 to build affordable homes in Morvern.

The Highland Sustainable Development Fund is worth £1 million every two years and is being distributed over the 25-year lifetime of the onshore wind projects that feed into it, which include Dunmaglass, Bhlaraidh and Strath North.

The windfall will help Morvern Community Development Company build nine homes, ranging from one to three bedrooms, in Lochaline.

Caol Regeneration Company was also given £100,000 to deliver a marina, including a slipway and café, at the Caledonian Canal's west gateway.

FORT WILLIAM

Children aged 12 and under are being invited to get the word out about Fairtrade and win prizes.

A £25 voucher from the Co-op, a crate of Fairtrade bananas for their school next term and delicious Fairtrade Mark items from Marks

& Spencer are up for grabs. To enter, children should create a poster or write a poem about what Fairtrade means and why it is important, take a photo of the entry, and have a parent or authorised adult post it to the Fort William Fairtrade Town Campaign page on Facebook to enter. Please do not post information identifying children.

Entries can also be dropped off at the Corpach Co-op.

Judges from the Co-op and M&S, which have kindly donated the items in support of the Fairtrade Town Campaign, will choose the winning entry on Monday July 2. The bananas will be delivered to the winning school at the start of next term.



Dave McEwan, purchasing manager at Marine Harvest, celebrated 40 years with the company at an award presentation at the company's Stob Ban office in Fort William. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos

Long service of Marine Harvest stalwart recognised with award

Marine Harvest's purchasing manager Dave McEwan has been presented with a long-service award to mark his 40 years with the company.

Dave started his career in 1978 at the Invergarry Hatchery, later moving into the management of freshwater and seawater departments and more recently in logistics and purchasing.

Colleagues gathered at the firm's

Stob Ban office in Fort William to congratulate Mr McEwan on his years of service.

He said: "The last 40 years have flown by and thanks go to all my colleagues and family for helping me achieve this milestone."

Mr McEwan was presented with his long-service award by Ewan MacColl, processing and feed director.

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ARISAIG

Arisaig and District Community Council held its annual general meeting recently with the chairman's annual report covering April 2017 to March 2018.

Iain Macniven said: 'The community council had another busy year, with work advanced or completed on various projects.'

'Throughout the year the council held the full complement of one AGM and nine ordinary meetings, with no meetings scheduled in July, August or December any year.'

Mr Macniven's report included details of the 2017 fireworks display, which was a great success thanks to an enormous amount of work going into the preparations and event itself.

He said: 'A significant sum of money was raised on the night. An even greater effort than usual was required this year as Highland Council required a public entertainment licence be issued for the community displays even if, as was not previously the case, there is no admission charge.'

'Thanks to the secretary and treasurer for their work on this. The licence cost £432 and is valid for three years. Thanks also to the Gower Trust, which granted the council's request for reimbursement of that sum. Thanks, as ever, to our vice-chairman for taking on a lot of the other management of the event and for his work on the Christmas lights.'

St Bride's Primary School head teacher given musical send-off

Youngsters at St Bride's Primary School said farewell to their head teacher on Thursday June 21 at a special service in Nether Lochaber Parish Church.

Susan Kemp has been head teacher at the school for 21 years and is retiring at the end of term.

During the service, in which the pupils took part, Miss Kemp was presented with a Bible and flowers

on behalf of the congregation. She expressed her thanks for the gifts and her appreciation of the warm and close relationship which had flourished between the church and school over the years.

She made special mention of the school's use of the church to enhance their Christmas concerts and Nativity plays over the last 12 years.



The pupils from St Bride's Primary School during the retirement service for head teacher Susan Kemp.

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ The saga of phone boxes in Spean continues to keep the community council busy. Over a year ago the red kiosk at the bridge was condemned as a traffic hazard - it took 40 years for that to be announced. It was decreed two new phone boxes were to be located in the village. These were duly sited and sighted, but haven't been operational for a year.

Meanwhile the red box at the bridge continued to serve its purpose - while the two new kiosks had rope tied round them. At last the new ones are operational - but there's no light in them. Where is there a 'lit-up' phone box? In the original red kiosk - but the telephone has been taken out of it. They're not seeing the light in the public phonebox in Roy Bridge, either.

■ That's Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) launched then. Nine of the 10 local enterprise companies within the aegis of HIE - are you with me so far? - have 'enterprise' after their name. Like Inverness Enterprise, Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise, Orkney Enterprise. Ours - Lochaber Limited - is the exception.

■ I have, in front of me, a copy of the Nikka News. The chairman of Nikka, the original Japanese whisky company, is Takeshi Taketsuru who, as you will know, is also chairman of Ben Nevis Distillery.

On his return home from a recent visit to Fort William, after seeing the resumption of whisky distilling at the Ben Nevis, he took with him all the local papers which covered the story - Roamer Column and all - and all the words and pictures have been reproduced in the latest Nikka News.

■ Apparently we now have the

cue for a new whisky which is to be named 'The End Blend'. The End Blend? Well may you ask.

It is being produced solely for the Scottish Crafts and Whisky Centre in Fort William to mark the contention by the proprietor of this West End establishment that the West Highland Way ends in the vicinity of the portals of his emporium.

The label depicts a wayfarer in shorts - well, he would be on a whisky bottle label - completing the long and winding road down Lundavra towards a sign proclaiming 'Fort William. Now for a drop of The End Blend'.

So now we await with interest the emergence at the Glen Nevis 'end' of drams like 'Achriabach Amber', 'Achintee Angels Share' and 'Glen Nevy Bevy'.

■ He wasn't a West Highland Wayfarer. No, but he certainly was an enterprising backpacker. There he was, standing in the bus shelter at Claggan Road end, wielding a small branch of a tree on the end of which was a large piece of cardboard with 'Destination Mallaig' crayoned on it. It was pouring rain, but he remained dry as he pointed his sign out of the shelter. And he got a lift.

■ Al Ness, the fella, not the place name, has opened the upstairs of the Granite House as an additional sales floor for the J&K (&A) Ness gift shop. And the posties had a field day taking every item of stock into the premises.

Never in the annals of Royal Mail has so much material been delivered to one shop at one time. And, I'm delighted to say, among the packages was a large clock, reminiscent of the one which fronted the old Post Office.

The Ness clock, only a few yards away from the site of the old Post Office, will provide yet another timely cog in the regeneration of the west end of town.

■ You'll have read about Macdonald's Smoked Produce in Glenuig and the fact Smokin' Simon has been perfecting a new

line - smoked alligator! Well, on Monday, a towrist couple from furth of Scotland came in to the Glenuig Smokery to have a look round. In one of the freezers was, shall we say, 'half an alligator'.

The visitors gazed at it and asked where it had come from. Quick as a flash, a sales rep who was paying a call to Smokin' Simon's premises, replied. 'Oh, they're bred around here. Did you not see them in the water close to the shore?' The lady shrieked and ran, yelling at the top of her voice to her children who were playing outside: 'Martin, Susanne, get back in the car quick. There's alligators over there!'

■ We all had a flutter on the Grand National on Saturday. And, on Monday, there were big queues at the payout counters in local betting shops. Notable among the winning punters was Pat Cain, who was waiting his turn to collect at Ladbrokes.

Pat, and a half dozen other successful locals in the queue, chatted away till it was his turn to 'cain the bookie'.

He handed over his betting slip. One look at it from the other side of the counter was enough for Pat to be told instantly: 'That's not ours, Pat, it's for Parade Racing.'

So poor Pat the punter, who had come all the way along the street during his lunch break from Wynne the Butchers, where he works, had to retrace his steps to Parade Racing - the bookie's office directly above Wynne's!

■ Next day, Paul Kearney was asked to put on a football bet for a pal. The right money was folded into the betting slip so Paul didn't bother looking at it.

Handed the lot over the counter and was met with the comment: 'I'm surprised a Celtic fan like you is having a bet on Motherwell to beat them tonight!' Aye, Paul had been an unwitting messenger with a fairly large wager on 'Well. Pity, though, he hadn't doubled the bet - he'd have had some consolation as Motherwell won!

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LT

GOLF



Robert MacIntyre.

MacIntyre makes the cut at Spey Valley

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre picked up a cheque for 2,200 euros in the SSE Scottish Hydro Challenge Tour event hosted by Macdonald Hotels and Resorts at Spey Valley Golf Club, Aviemore last week.

Robert, who is a member of Glencruitten Golf Club in Oban, carded rounds of 70, 72, 72 and 69 to finish in 23rd place, two under par for a four round total of 283. The event was won by another Scot - Aberdeen's David Law from Paul Lawrie Golf Club.

After the event Robert said: 'I was happy how the week went. A lot of daft mistakes, but it's a step in the right direction.'

After carding a first round of 70 Robert took time out to do a Challenge Tour clinic with local Aviemore children.

Robert now heads for Denmark this week to take part in the Made in Denmark Challenge at Himmerland Golf and Spa Resort.

MOTO3

Fourth place finish for McPhee



John McPhee, No 17, in action during the recent Catalunya Grand Prix in Barcelona. Photo: Bonnie Lane

The seventh race of the MotoGP World Championship took place recently under the Catalan sun and was favorable for the CIP-Green Power team as Connel's John McPhee rode a strong race at the front and eventually finished in fourth position.

The weekend was marked by numerous crashes due to the new track asphalt that made grip difficult. John and teammate Makar had harmless crashes during the free practise. John ran a very good session, qualifying in seventh place on the starting grid.

John made a good start and remained in the lead group until the end, alternating between first and eighth position. He avoided the traps and fights between his competitors, taking the lead three laps before the end, but was overtaken on the last lap. He finally crossed the finish line in a well-deserved fourth position. John's next race is in Assen this weekend.



Prizewinners at the Lochaber squash championships.

Lochaber squash championship

The annual club championships of the Lochaber Squash Club took place on Saturday June 23 at Lochaber Leisure Centre.

Alan Love is club champion, following

in his father's footsteps. Bruce Love was champion for many years.

Alan beat Neil Worsdall to take the title. Neil had just played a tough semi-final and couldn't hold off the younger

SQUASH

man. Kenny Mann, also a badminton player, beat Lance Marshall, in the final of the plate competition.

Badminton trophies make a big racquet in Oban High School

BADMINTON

Following an appeal in The Oban Times last December Oban High School has now taken delivery of 15 new trophies and shields for its annual OHS Badminton Championship.

With the number of pupils entering the completion now more than 80 pupils for the U14, U16 and U19 events PE teacher Denise Gemmell felt it was worth asking for help.

Denise explained: 'The tournament has been running for many years with the winners representing the region in the Argyll and Bute Secondary Schools competition. Last year we even had five pupils

from Oban High School representing Argyll and Bute in the Scottish Schools National Badminton Competition.

'We always have a huge entry and competition is fierce. We just felt that it would be fitting for our pupils to receive a trophy for their achievements and have their name engraved and displayed for years to come.'

'We are so grateful to everyone involved in donating the trophies and we are delighted that so many pupils will have the opportunity to compete for these trophies in the future.'

Former Oban High PE teacher Moira Barbour donated trophies for the U14 and U16 boys' singles in the

name of her two sons Stuart and Cameron Barbour who had played badminton at regional and national level and were both former pupils.

While in her teaching post in OHS it was Moira who helped secure the Argyll and Bute regional badminton competition for the Scottish schools event.

Another former OHS PE teacher and badminton player Liz Clunie also put a successful bid into Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) to fund the remaining awards.

ABCD's Andy Henderson said it was 'delighted to present Oban High School Badminton Club with 10 new trophies for its annual

competitions'.

'The trophies and will be awarded to the winners in different age groups year after year. The ABCD trustees are keen to support and encourage this sort of venture, because we know that activities of all sorts that promote regular physical exercise, started young, and continued into adult life are the best way of helping to prevent cardiovascular disease in later life.'

'We wish the OHS badminton club every success, and hope that it goes from strength to strength, attracting students at the school to take up the sport and to enjoy the wonderful facilities in the new school where it has six superb badminton courts.'

Tresidder comes close to taking Eagle Crag Race

Brian Marshall's record for the Eagle Crag Hill Race from 2007 still stands at 0:58:28 after the weekend's running of the event at Blarmachfoldach.

However, Banavie's Es Tresidder got within one minute of that and in the process became the first Lochaber runner to complete the race in under an hour.

Results were as follows: 1 Es Tresidder 0:59:29; 2 Richard Macleod 0:61:01; 3 Steven Traill 0:62:32; 4 Stuart Critchfield 0:63:56; 5 Alan Smith 0:68:19; 6 Franciso Javier 0:69:23; 7 Rafal Bielana 0:69:23; 8 Iain Mackellag 0:70:36; 9 Hugh Macintosh 0:71:27; 10 Stewart Wilson 0:72:10; 11 Barrie Mackinnon 0:73:44; 12 Peter Kennedy 0:75:03; 13 Donald Lamont 0:75:44; 14 Ryan Stewart 0:77:24; 15 Simon Drysdale 0:78:09; 16 Brian Macdonald 0:79:43; 17 Nathan Martin 0:79:48; 18 Allan Lamont 0:79:52; 19 Gordie Taylor 0:79:54; 20 Spook Munro 0:80:53; 21 Lisette Walter 0:81:12; 22 Niall Mabeath 0:82:36; 23 Amanda Blackhall 0:82:47; 24 Vicki Mackinnon 0:85:41; 25 Carollina Krawczyk 0:85:48; 26 Ali Kennedy 0:86:09; 27 Peter Carmichael 0:86:15; 28 Iain Lamont 0:86:18; 29 Bruce Davie 0:93:06; 30 Susan Jane Ross 0:98:20; 31 Craig Macgowan 0:99:36; 32 George Douglas 101:31; 33 Klara Campbell 106:54; 34 Emma Pearce 108:15; 35 Willie Macdonald 113:28.



This year's Eagle Crag Hill Race was as tough as ever. Photograph: Iain Ferguson. Alba.photos

Inverlochy hosts pairs competition



Allan MacDonald, centre, president of Fort William Railway Bowling Club presents the winners of the Davie Matheson nominated pairs competition at the green at Inverlochy. The winners were cousins Kevin Fraser (second right) and Gus Fraser with runners-up husband and wife Agnes and Wilson Thain. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography

Bowling charity pairs event



Liz Kennedy and Alan Lawrie won the recent charity nominated pairs competition at the Fort William Railway Bowling Club's green in Inverlochy. The final was against father and son Colin (right) and Fin MacDonald, who took part in his first ever competition. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography

LT

FOOTBALL

Fort William's new manager Kris Anderson

Fort William appoint new team manager

Fort William Football Club is delighted to announce the signing of new team manager Kris Anderson. Kris has signed a two-year deal with the club and said: 'I am delighted to be given the opportunity at such a fantastic club.

'I have worked with some excellent coaches in the past and can't wait to work with the team here.

'My team and I will build and develop a strong squad incorporating the club's fantastic youth set up as well. 'I can't wait to see you all at Claggan Park.'

Kris, 39, originally from Aberdeen, now living in Inverness, is an army veteran of 13 years, and has more than 12 years of coaching experience, most recently within Inverness Clach's youth set-up from which he progressed through the SFA coaching system to SFA licence C, with hopes of taking the UEFA B licence next year.

The Fort William committee was made aware of Kris's availability through an SFA contact and after a few brief conversations and an in-depth meeting between Kris and committee member Willie Edwards, it was a 'no brainer' to make signing Kris a priority as it was apparent he wasn't in it for the short term.

He shared a long-term vision for the club that ran alongside the current committee's vision and, with pre-season on the doorstep – Monday July 25, 7pm Claggan Park – the club felt it was great to get the deal done and across the line at this crucial time.

A club spokesman said: 'We are absolutely delighted to have Kris on board and can't wait to see his career flourish at Claggan Park.'

GOLF

Results from the Isle of Skye

Ladies' section: Sunday June 17 - monthly medal: 1 Donalda Johnston 87 (20) nett 67; 2 Sandra Dew 106 (36) 70; 3 Jill Mackinnon 91 (19) 72.

Tuesday June 19 - Macleod Stableford: 1 Donalda Johnston 35 pts; 2 Sandra Dew 34 pts; 3 Ann Jagger 29 pts.

Thursday June 21 - seniors' open: 1 Donalda Johnston 36 pts; 2 Ann Jagger 27 pts; 3 Sandra Dew 26pts.

Gents' section: Saturday and Sunday June 16 and 17 - Club Championship qualifying round one: Leading scratch scores: 73 - Daniel Macdonald; 74 - Ryan Macaskill, Ian Douglas and Andrew Long; 76 - John Finlayson, Murdo Gordon and Chris Hanley; 77 - Alex Munro.

Thursday June 21 - seniors' open: 1 Willie Cowie 46 pts; 2 Louis Hamilton 37 pts; 3 Rob Anderson (Traigh GC) 37 pts.

Fort FC holds juni



Fort William FC P3 and P4 teams pictured along with their coaches. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Fort William Football Club held its junior awards events on Friday night at the local golf club.

This year was the first year for the primary 3 and primary 4 teams to attend the Fort William Youths' Awards night.

The teams joined forces with Fort Youths this season and there was great excitement about being involved with the event which saw a fantastic turnout from players and parents.

Coaches had the very hard decision to make to choose the most improved player and player of the year.

To acknowledge their commitment and improvement each player was awarded a medal.

'We have had a fantastic season with lots of hard work put in on training nights and great success at all the tournaments we have travelled to,' said a spokesperson for the events.

'We enjoyed our first indoor tournament at the Nevis Centre this season which was a great success.

'Players, coaches and parents are looking forward to the next season and watching our young players develop.'

That part of the evening

was followed by the older age groups and players, coaches and parents gathering to celebrate the individual awards of all the chosen winners of the season.

Coaches spoke about each team and all were delighted with the progress the local youth players had made this season.

Youth chairman Mark Rydings also thanked Danny Conlon for all the hard work he has put into youth football over many years.

Danny set up the youth system and has continued to support it in many roles for more than 20 years.

He is taking a break from it to concentrate on work commitments but the hope is he will return in some capacity in the near future.

Raffle tickets were sold on the night and after the awards presentation there was a fundraising horse race night.

Organisers were delighted to raise nearly £1,000 which will be used to help cover the costs of facilities and minibus hire and equipment.

Thank yous were given to everyone who went along and made the night such a success.

The U17 player of the year was Ryan Boyle and most im-



Fort FC Juniors P3 Most Improved Player, Kerr MacKinnon (left) and Player of the Year, Levi MacLean.



Fort Juniors FC P4 Most Improved Player Callum Syewart (left) and Player of the Year, Lewis Britton.

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or awards event



Junior team prizewinners and coaches after the awards ceremony.

proved player was Greg Kelly.

The U15 player of year was Alec Morrison and most improved player was Martin Denny.

The U13 player of the year was Brogan Barrie and most improved player was Ryan Petrie.

The U11 player of the year was Kayden Campbell and most improved player was Lewis Luxton.

The Usidean MacDonald Memorial Trophy winner

YOUTH FOOTBALL

was Alex Morrison. Fort Juniors FC P4 most improved player was Callum Stewart and player of the year was Lewis Britton.

Fort Juniors FC P3 most improved player was Kerr MacKinnon and player of the Year was Levi MacLean.

Usidean MacDonald Memorial Trophy winner was Alex Morrison.



South Lochaber Thistle hand out awards

Continued from page 88

Andrew MacLean for their continued loyalty to the club and to Craig Cameron and Shaun Hendrie for their notable discipline performances.

As well as the individual awards, the Kinlochleven-based outfit were celebrating team achievements, having secured promotion to the

Greater Glasgow Premier League Division 2 after an emphatic 4-1 play-off victory over Rannoch from the division above to round off their second season.

The close season has seen several signings to strength the squad, both on the park and behind the scenes.

Gabor Tot and Russell

MacMorran as assistant manager and first team coach respectively, whilst Barna Tot and Andrew 'Toon' Brown will add depth, experience and talent to an already exciting squad.

Manager Alan Gray said: 'At the start of the season we had the minimum aim of promotion and we have

FOOTBALL

achieved that. 'It would have been nice to have won a cup but it wasn't to be this time around. A poor start to the league campaign left us with a huge task to gain promotion but it's down the players' hard work that we have made it over the line.'



Dave Forbes, clubman of the year. Photos: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos



Martin Munro, player of year and top goal scorer.



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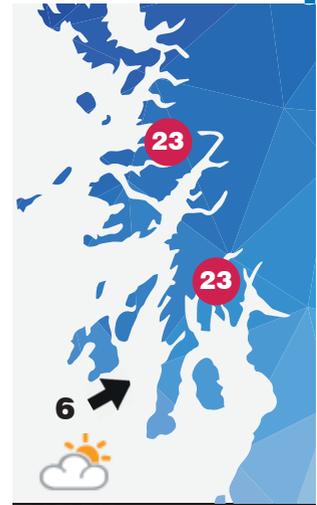


WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny
Light winds from the west north west
Temperatures
14°C to 24°C.

Friday
Sunny
Light winds from the south west
Temperatures
9°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Breezy from north west
Temperatures
11°C to 15°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday June 28, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	05.35	3.6	12.05	1.1
	17.58	3.8	***	**
Fri	00.20	1.2	06.11	3.6
	12.41	1.1	18.34	3.9
Sat	00.58	1.2	06.47	3.8
	13.17	1.1	19.10	3.8
Sun	01.36	1.3	07.23	3.6
	13.52	1.2	19.45	3.8
Mon	02.14	1.4	07.57	3.5
	14.25	1.3	20.21	3.7
Tues	02.51	1.5	08.30	3.4
	14.58	1.4	20.57	3.5
Wed	03.29	1.6	09.06	3.2
	15.32	1.5	21.36	3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Fort FC holds junior awards event



South Lochaber Thistle players at their presentation night. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos

South Lochaber Thistle hold presentation night

South Lochaber Thistle handed out their end-of-season awards at the weekend at a presentation ceremony hosted by Sunny's Sports Bar, Fort William, to round off a busy time for the club.

Player of the season was awarded to winger and club captain Martin Munro, who also bagged the top goalscor-

er trophy with his fantasy football-like 40 goals in 24 appearances.

Young player of the year was awarded to Kentallen centre half Paul McFatrige, sadly missing due to family commitments, who just pipped Keir Kennedy by one vote.

Most improved player was

given to veteran midfielder Dave Forbes for his barnstorming performances in midfield after a transformative fitness regime paid off in spades.

Forbes was also awarded the trophy for president's clubman of the year for his all-round contribution to the life of the club.

SLT president Peter Newman commented: 'Dave led from the front this season, both on and off the park.'

'His dedication to being his best on the pitch was exceptional, but his loyalty, his role as club treasurer and the example he sets to the rest of the squad is a privilege to watch.'

FOOTBALL

'Both the manager and I are very grateful for his work.'

Several light-hearted awards were also given, notably to Kieron Lopez and John Ferguson for their roles in team morale, to Lopez and

Continued on page 83

Lochaber club lotteries

LOTTERY

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 7, 18 and 19. There were no winners so the jackpot for the draw today (Thursday June 28) will be £1,300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 10, 18 and 19. There were no winners so the jackpot for this week's draw will be £600.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 4, 12 and 14. There were no winners so next week's jackpot will be £1,700

Caol Regeneration Lotto numbers for this week were 3, 16 and 17. There were no winners this week so next week's 'pot will be £400.

D & K Cup Tournament

FOOTBALL

The annual D & K Lafferty Cup Tournament hosted by Oban Saints and sponsored by D & K Lafferty Contractors will take place at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park, Oban on Saturday July 7 starting at 11am.

Plans have been finalised for the 25th year of the competition.

Taking part are Scottish Premier League teams St Johnstone and Hamilton Accies, last year's winners, and Scottish Championship sides Dundee United and Alloa Athletic with hosts Oban Saints for the amateur side of Scottish Football.



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